THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 151, Vol. VI.

Saturday, November 18, 1865.

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PART from all considerations of social A morality, the comedy of "Le Supplice d'une Femme " labours under the disadvantage of having a revolting and painful plot. Nor is this the only objection. The nature of the story renders a satisfactory dramatic solution impossible, for the interest is exhausted in the opening situation. What follows is of no more concern than the question whether a criminal found guilty at the Old Bailey shall be transported for five or seven years. The wife and lover are convicted in the first act, and the rest of the play consists of solemn and dreary dialogues, in which the characters are made to moralize upon a foregone conclusion. No dramatist, who was a master of his craft, would have selected such a subject. It is like an architect who, having only a given sum to expend, lays it all out on the scaffolding, and has not a penny left for the house. M. Dumas, fils, has done something towards making the piece possible on the stage, by bringing such movement as there is in it closer together, and reconstructing, or re-writing, the whole of the third act. M. Emile de Girardin owes to these alterations the success of the comedy in the theatre. But M. Dumas has not been always judicious in his expedients for quickening the action. Take the following as an example. It is the commencement of the scene in the second act, as written by M. Girardin, in which Mathilde, the wife, hands to Dumont, the husband, the letter of her lover, in which the terrible secret of her life is laid bare:-

Dumont. Serait-il survenu quelque empêche-ment ou quelque retard à notre voyage? Quelle lettre, chère amie, as-tu donc reçue?

Mathilde [profondément émue]. La lettre
que voici—Lisez-la—

Dumont [atterée, après avoir lu la lettre].

Mathilde ! qu'y a-t-il de vrai dan cette lettre ?

Mathilde [épuisée et chancelante]. Tout. Dumont [stupéfié]. Je ne le crois pas-je ne

veux pas, je ne peux pas le croire— Mathilde. Croyez-le. Dumont. Il n'est pas possible que cela soit!

Mathilde. Cela est.

Dumont: Si cela était, ce ne serait pas toi qui me l'affirmerais — Mathilde, Mathilde, dis-moi que c'est une calomnie que tu dédaignes de relever, et dont tu te fais en ce moment un jeu cruel contre moi—

Mathilde. Ce n'est pas une calomnie-c'est la vérité.

Dumont. La vérité! Et vous osez me la dire! If there was a moment when the action should move slowly to allow play to strong mental suffering, it was here. The refusal of the devoted husband to believe in his wife's dishonour, and his repeated struggles to evade the terrible truth, are perfectly natural to the occasion and the character, and would have been brought out effectively by M. Regnier, whose speciality is the delineation of domestic emotion. A vulgar actor would be swept into a whirlwind by such a disclosure-M. Regnier would, probably, have spoken shudderingly under his breath, and, by suppression of the tortures of doubt and suspense he was undergoing, have deepened the misery of the situation. M. Dumas, fils, did not see, or appreciate, the acting capabilities of this passage, and cut it out bodily, in order that he might get on more rapidly with the scene. The bald and abrupt scrap of

dialogue he has substituted for it must be allowed to have the merit of packing up the incident on which the whole play turns into the smallest possible compass:-

Dumont [after having read the letter]. C'est à toi que cette lettre est adressée ? Mathilde. Oui !

Dumont. Voyons! je ne comprehends plus. Alvarez—cette lettre dit vrai? Mathilde. Oui!

Dumont. Miserable!

But this blunder of an experienced dramatist is not without its use. It illustrates the possibility of destroying the vital force of a situation by excessive condensation. The modern French school of writing tends towards that extremity, as our own school may be said to drift in an opposite direction. The happy mean lies in the preservation of a just equilibrium between action and the development of characters, motives, and passions.

Without detracting from the Paris cast of "Le Supplice d'une Femme," the playgoer will be at no loss to find artists in London who, if they could be assembled in this comedy, would inspire it with a more sympathetic humanity. The names of Miss Kate Terry and Mr. Alfred Wigan suggest themselves at once for the wife and husband, while the part of Madame Larcey, a gossipping woman of fashion, who does her best to make the worst of the scandal about her friend, would be played with incomparably higher zest and subtler finesse by Mrs. Stirling than it is by Madame Ponsin, who reads the character from the surface, but never penetrates farther. In other respects, any of our theatres would have put the piece more carefully upon the stage. The single scene of which it consists is mean and paltry for such a house as the Français.

The play is, of course, exiled from the English theatre by its subject; for, although we have imported many dramas of equivocal morality from France, our audiences are not likely to endure a deliberate exposure on the stage of details fit only for the Divorce Court. In this point of view, our drama has a conspicuous superiority over that of the French. It is based, for the most part, upon materials that are not only free from offence, but that make an agreeable impression on the audience. With the exception of some lugubrious tragedies, which came into fashion chiefly in Garrick's time, and which are gloomy and turgid rather than repulsive, this is the prevailing character of our national drama. Shakespeare and his contemporaries rarely leave a bitter flavour in the cup, and are full of sweetness and The permanent geniality to the lees. charm of our drama may be traced to this source; and such of our dramatists as are really students in their art know the secret, and endeavour to select subjects of an essentially pleasing kind. The lurid and sanguinary plays all come from France. It used to be said that the French were squeamishly fastidious about bloodshed and other deeds of violence on the stage, and that they had them executed behind the curtain, to spare the sensibilities of the audience. Mais nous avons changé tout cela. If you want to see massacres and assassinations, plots and counter-plots, of demoniacal atrocity, you must go to a French theatre. Their taste in this particular has undergone as complete a revolution as their practice in the matter of

English cookery. Formerly the bifteok was so assiduously grilled that it was reduced to a cinder; now it is au naturelthat is, simply raw.

The French managers seem to have lost their cunning in the way of scenery, decorations, and machinery. We no longer see the wonders that were wont to draw myriads of people to the Porte St. Martin and the great houses. "La Biche au Bois," in five acts, and no less than eighteen tableaux, is a marvellous instance of enormous expenditure upon a piece utterly destitute of interest, even as an elaborate spectacle. We are not without examples of this kind of waste in London; but we have not yet produced so gigantic a fabric of paint and spangles, with so weak a foundation. To fill the stage with a succession of multitudes of people whose business there is always involved in obscurity, and who, on each fresh appearance, are dressed in different costumessome of which are hideously absurd, looking very much like Mr. Lear's nonsense pictures, with verses to match, for childrenappears to constitute the whole object of the piece. The scenery that accompanies this unintelligible rout of antics is ambitious in its pretensions and its variety, but common-place in conception, and bald in execution. Most of the scenes look as if the colour had faded out of them; but the truth is they never had the requisite depth of tone; while the last grand tableau, which displays groups of pretty women suspended in the clouds, has too mechanical an air for so aerial a design, and is transcended every year in London by the ordinary labours of our theatrical artists on the Christmas pantomimes. The scenery everywhere throughout the theatres of Paris, with scanty exceptions, is dingy and antiquated. and exhibits neither enterprise nor progress. It will not bear a moment's comparison with the brilliant works of our Grieves, Telbins, Beverleys, Jameses, and Fentons-artists who have brought the highest executive genius to minister to the illustration of the

Upon the French stage, it is impossible for a close observer not to be struck by a similar decadence in what is technically called stage management. We have long been justly censured for our neglect in that department, and we are open to the censure still; but the French, who once carried their preparations behind the scenes to such an extent as to exhaust the freshness of a new play amongst the actors before it was submitted to the public, have now apparently abandoned all their good old habits of conscientious discipline. We say apparently, for we judge merely from the front of the house. If frequent rehearsals are still cultivated, they certainly do not produce their usual results. We not only miss the precision, the adroit interplay which gave to dialogue all the ease of a real-life conversation, and that perfection of ensemble which was a distinguishing feature of the Parisian theatre twenty years ago, but we find confusion where there was formerly order, and can see that a revolution has set in amongst the actors, which menaces the foundations of responsible management. If the actor is to do what he likes with his own parts-if he is to think only of rendering himself prominent, at the cost of dramatic symmetry-and if the play, as a whole, and not the players, as the atoms by the combination of which it is formed,

is no longer to be the paramount consideration, it requires no great gift of prophecy to foresee that, so far as the French stage is concerned, chaos is coming

"Gagging" has never been a vice of the French stage; but something very closely resembling it is beginning to grow up in the small theatres. If the comic actors do not actually interpolate the dialogue, they do what is worse-they take the public into their confidence, and address directly to the audience whole speeches, which should be addressed to the people on the stage. It is a golden maxim of stage art that the actor should never recognize the existence of an audience. He belongs to another region; and the moment he separates himself from the scene, and chuckles, or talks, over the foot-lights, the illusion is at an end. We are aware that this is a vice of our own stage. But it is not the less reprehensible on that account. With us, however, it is the vice only of a few spoiled favourites, or chartered libertines; while in Paris it shows symptoms of becoming a common practice with all classes of actors, serious as well as comic.

That we have advanced in the art of laying down the map of a play, for the purposes of its representation by the actors, is not less certain than that the French have retrograded. Take two instances in Paris at the present moment, upon which the greatest amount of care may be presumed to have been bestowed. The "business," such as it is, of Girardin's comedy is mere routine. It has neither local colour nor suggestiveness, and never helps the story or the actors, although there are abundant opportunities for giving collateral effect to both. And there are faults of commission, as well as omission. Throughout nearly the whole of the last scene the lady is placed with her back to the audience, in order that she may not distract attention from the two gentlemen who, during all that time, have the stage to This is a signal error of themselves. judgment: it produces an awkwardness which, like a blur in a picture, seizes upon the eyes of the audience; and it mutilates the scene by excluding the actress from the display of any emotional participation in what concerns her even more than anybody else. The crowds in "La Biche au Bois" exhibit stage management from nother point of view. Here there is tumult without design-a prodigality of means that overwhelms the stage and the We looked in vain audience alike. throughout the sumptuous disorder of those scenes for indications of such consummate art, intelligence, and taste as are displayed in the picturesque group-ing, throbbing with life, of the marketplace in "Masaniello" at Covent Garden. or the intense earnestness of the trialscene in "Arrah na-Pogue." It must not be supposed that we set up the English stage as a model of artistic excellence in the way of stage management. On the contrary, we are pretty impressed with its shortcomings in this respect; but we are also very sensible of the admirable judgment and variety of resources it has displayed of late years in many memorable instances. What we do claim for the English stage is that it has advanced, while the French stage has deteriorated.

We hope to complete our hasty notes in a future number.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

LIVINGSTONE ON THE ZAMBESI.

Narrative of an Expedition to the Zambesi and its Tributaries, and of the Discovery of the Lakes Shirwa and Nyassa, 1858-64. By David and Charles Livingstone. (Murray.)

OMBINE Moffat with Mungo Park, and J the result would resemble David Living-This remarkable man has spent almost the whole of his life in unknown Africa. He resided among the Kaffirs for many years, labouring to convert them to the Christian faith. He made no less than five great journeys, each of sufficient importance to have gained him a reputation. Having ascended from the Cape of Good Hope to San Paolo de Loanda, having laid there for seven months struggling with fever, he disappeared into the interior, and reappeared at the Mozambique. The Portuguese of Lisbon have attempted to depreciate this feat, which, however, dazzled the Portuguese of Angola. When, some years afterwards, we travelled in that country, we heard much of the Englishman who, mounted on an ox, went from sea to sea. We were shown relics of him which had been religiously preserved. He was spoken of by these mulatto planters and officials always with respect, and sometimes with veneration. The name of Livingstone, which they cannot pronounce, will there go down mangled to posterity.

The first book which he produced was immense. Criticism recoiled awe-struck before it. It contained the adventures, the experiences, the impressions of sixteen years in Africa. It was the record of a missionary's life on the frontier of white men's settlements; described the customs of savage tribes previously unknown to us even by name; and added greatly to our geographical know-ledge of Central Africa. He discovered lakes like seas, chains of mountains, and a waterfall which is larger than Niagara. also plenty of coarser food for the public palate in the shape of lions eating men, hip-popotami upsetting canoes, treacherous na-tives, plundering Boers, wounded elephants, and so on. Such a book as this could be compared with no other book; nothing like it had ever been written before; it was an encyclopedia compiled not from a library, but

from a continent.

Having obtained the highest honours which England confers on her explorers, Dr. Livingstone was placed at the head of a Government expedition to the Zambesi country. Its main object was "to extend the knowledge already attained of the geography and mineral and agricultural resources of Eastern and Central Africa, to improve our acquaintance with the inhabitants, and to endeavour to engage them to apply themselves to industrial pursuits and to the cultivation of their lands, with a view to the production of raw material to be exported to England in return for British manufactures; and it was hoped that by encouraging the natives to occupy themselves in the development of the resources of the country, a considerable advance might be made towards the extinction of the slave-trade." The expedition consisted, besides, of Dr. Kirk, Mr. Charles Living-stone, Mr. R. Thornton, and we may add, though Dr. Livingstone abstains from doing so, Mr. Baines, the first African artist ex-plorer, whose illustrations adorn this work, the title-page of which has not been honoured with his name. Mr. Thornton died. Mr. Charles Livingstone (now Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po), appears to have occupied himself in "encouraging the culture of cotton, in making many magnetic and meteorological observations, in photographing, so long as the materials would serve, and in collecting a large number of birds, insects, and other objects of interest."

Dr. Kirk collected above four thousand species of plants, specimens of valuable woods, of native manufactures, of articles of food, and of different kinds of cotton. These collections belong to the Government, and have been forwarded to the British Museum

and to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. An idea of their importance may be gathered from the author's statement, that "should Dr. Kirk undertake their description, three or four years will be required for the purpose." We trust that Dr. Kirk will not only write a catalogue, but that he will some day offer to the public a work from his own pen upon Eastern Africa. We trust also that a man who possesses all the qualifications required in an explorer will not remain at home. He has refused the command of the expedition now proceeding to Africa under Dr. Livingstone. We hope that he intends to open up some new field.

The expedition, then, has enriched us with valuable collections, obtained during six years, and from regions unexplored before. It has discovered a port which can be made available for commerce. It has ascertained the exact value of the Zambesi as a waterroad. It has brought us also some valuable information respecting the natural productions of the soils in Eastern Africa. Indigo has been found growing wild over large tracts of country, and often attains the height of a man. The cotton is found to be of a very superior quality, especially where the soil happens to be impregnated with salt. Cotton wool sent to Manchester was pronounced to be twopence per pound better in quality than common New Orleans. The plant also appears to be peculiarly vigorous and persistent in the soil, and the best requires renewal only once in three years. The soils are also favourable to the delicate tobacco plant, to the castor-oil plant, and to the sugar-cane. On the islands [in the river Shire crops are raised continuously, without any regard to the season, and by irrigation wheat during the four colder months. Europeans can always secure one crop of European corn, with two or three of maize, per annum. On the high-lands the average grass crop is as heavy as could be obtained from rich meadow land in England. In general, the highlands are free from the tsetse, curse of cattle, and from mosquitoes, plague of man. The woods yield timber, African ebony, and the fustic, with its permanent yellow dye. On the other hand, this country is subject to periodical droughts, which, from 10° to 15° South, may be expected once in every ten or fifteen years, and from 15° to 20° South once in every five years. On the other hand, also, there is the African fever.

This expedition discovered the lakes Shirwa and Nyassa, patiently examined the Zambesi to a point beyond the Victoria Falls, and performed other important geographical feats.

They came to the Lake Nyassa a little before noon on the 16th of September, 1859. On the following 19th of November it was independently discovered by Dr. Roscher, who had arrived there by a different route, and who was murdered by the natives shortly afterwards. This lake is two hundred miles long, and in parts fifty or sixty miles broad. Like all narrow seas encircled by highlands, it is visited by sudden and tremendous storms. One of these is remarkably well described:—

We were caught one morning with the sea breaking all around us, and, unable either to advance or recede, anchored a mile from shore, in seven fathoms. The furious surf on the beach would have shivered our slender boat to atoms had we tried to land. The waves most dreaded came rolling on in threes, with their crests driven into spray streaming behind them. A short lull followed each triple charge. Had one of these white-maned seas struck our frail one of these white-maned seas struck our frail bark, nothing could have saved us; for they came on with resistless force; seaward, in shore, and on either side of us they broke in foam, but we escaped. For six weary hours we faced those terrible trios, any one of which might have been carrying the end of our expedition in its hoary head. A low, dark, detached, oddly-shaped cloud, came slowly from the mountains, and hung for hours directly over our heads. A flock of night-jars, which on no other occasion come out by day, soared above us in the gale come out by day, soared above us in the gale like birds of evil omen. Our black crew became sea-sick, and unable to sit up or keep the boat's

head to the sea. The natives and our land party stood on the high cliffs looking at us as the waves seemed to swallow up the boat: "They are lost! They are all dead!"

The shores of the lake are more densely populated than in any part of Africa yet visited by Dr. Livingstone. In the southern part there was an almost unbroken chain of villages. The inhabitants are ugly and civil. At one village only were they impudent, but they were then "elevated" by beer, which seems to be largely imbibed in almost all the countries of Eastern Africa. At a certain time of year the northern dwellers of the lake have a harvest which brings in a singular sort of food. Clouds as of smoke were seen, but on sailing through them they were found to consist of millions of minute midges, which filled the air to an immense height, and swarmed upon the water too light to sink. They struck upon the face like fine drifting snow; eyes and mouth had to be closed. Thousands lay in the boat when she emerged from this kungo, or fog. The people gather these midges by night and boil them into cakes—a million to a mouthful. These cakes, as the author says with delicious naïveté, are not unlike salted locusts

Among the many interesting details which are given respecting the natives of Eastern Africa, their manners, morals, dress, or want of dress and decorations, we must not omit to mention the pelele. It is made of bamboo, ivory, or tin, and is worn by the women in-serted into the upper lip, which is thus caused to project two inches beyond the tip of the nose. When an old wearer of the bamboo pelele smiles, the lip is dragged back and thrown over the eyebrows. An ancient lady was seen with her lip hanging down below her chin. When told that it was ugly, and that they had better throw it away, they reply, "Kodi! Really! It is the

they reply, fashion!"

It is very rare indeed that a tribe of people can be met with who do not wear any clothing at all. The only instance that we are acquainted with in Western Africa is among the natives of Fernando Po. The expedition, however, encountered a tribe called the "Baenda-pezi" (Go-nakeds), whose costume consisted of red ochre, and nothing more. One of them defended this custom by saying, "God made us naked, and there-fore I have never worn any kind of clothing." Yet, curiously enough, their women are dressed very well. These disciples of Adam appear to have been remarkably polite. They smoked all day long, but invariably asked our travellers, before lighting their pipes, whether "they objected to smoking." Their method of smoking also is most refined. They take a whiff, puff out the grosser smoke, and then by a sudden inhalation contrive to catch and swallow, as they say, the real essence, the very spirit of the tobacco, which in the ordinary way is entirely lost.

The sporting reader will find little in this work to amuse him, and the authors are very severe, perhaps not unjustly so, upon that besoin de tuer by which so many Englishmen appear to be tormented. But the naturalist will find that the habits of animals and the aspects of nature have been carefully observed, and very pleasantly described. As a literary performance, we could not expect much in this book. A man does not acquire the arts of literary composition by keeping a diary in a canoe or under a waggon-tilt. But on the whole there is really much to praise, as may indeed be seen from the extract above. We regret only that phrases of religion with capital letters have been so profusely paraded - for parade it is, since it can hardly be expected to increase the piety of the reader—and here and there we fall upon jokes of a small and slangy kind, in which we fancy that we can trace the pen of Mr. Charles Livingstone. The volume is superbly prepared, as the importance of the work deserves. It will rank after Dr. Livingstone's first book, because the labours of six years can scarcely be expected to bring it as much fruit as the labours of sixteen.

Still, "The Zambesi and its Tributaries" ! is a work which every one should read, and which all who have libraries should buy.

In our second notice we shall consider the great question of the slave-trade, to abolish which, as Dr. Livingstone informs us, was the main design of the late expedition, as it is of the one in which he has just embarked, and of the still greater question which it involves, the future of Eastern Africa.

We regret that it is impossible for us to give a more full account of the people whom Livingstone and his party visited, of the adventures which they encountered, and of the wonders which they saw. But as we take it for granted that the book will be universally read, this is not, perhaps, of much consequence. We can inform ladies, by-the-bye, that this is an easier book to read than Livingstone's gigantic work; and there are many little traits of character detailed which will go straight to female hearts. We will end this article with one which is, perhaps, the prettiest African story that we have ever

They were sleeping one night outside a hut, but near enough to hear what was going on within. About two o'clock in the morning a woman rose and began to grind corn. "Ma," inquired a little girl, "why do you grind in the dark?" "Go to sleep, dear," said her mother. "I grind meal to buy a cloth from the strangers, that you may look a little lady."

SOPHOCLES.

The Tragedies of Sophocles: A New Translation, with a Biographical Essay by E. H. Plumptre. 2 Vols. (Strahan.)

F Mr. Musgrave should not succeed in his laudable object of giving a version of the Odyssey which may be useful to "middleclass scholars," whose taste cannot be gratified by the original; if that novus ordo in the literary commonwealth has not found him so powerful a friend as he wished to be, they may derive some compensation in the much more successful effort of Mr. Plumptre. For we can honestly say at once, that a person entirely unacquainted with Greek may now read with pleasure some of the masterpieces of the Athenian drama, and form an opinion for himself of the taste of an audience who knew how to appreciate them.

To pass in even brief review the seven out of the hundred and thirteen tragedies of Sophocles which have come down to us, and to criticize the present admirable translation of them, is clearly too great an undertaking for our limits. And there is no reason why we should, for the execution and the display of scholarship seem equally good throughout; so we shall confine ourselves principally to the first volume, which contains the two tragedies of Œdipus, and the Antigone, through which the same story runs, and much the same characters for the most part

appear.

There are many of our readers who will remember the grand effort which was made by the scholars of more than twenty years ago to naturalize the Antigone on the English stage; and the striking effect which Miss Vandenhoff produced in that character. Still, as far as the popular taste went, it must be acknowledged to have been a failure; and after being played only two nights was finally withdrawn. But it by no means follows that because a drama fails on the stage, therefore it should fail to please in the closet. And if we are to judge from the fact that only a very small proportion of the writings of the Greek dramatists have been saved to posterity, we must conclude that those which have been preserved were still more admirable to readers than to spectators. We stand, therefore, in relation to them, more nearly in the original point of view than might at first have been expected; and there is no reason why persons of cultivated taste should hesitate to criticize these productions out of any exaggerated deference to their long-sustained reputation. It is necessary to make a few reflections on what is now

almost proverbially called the horizon, both religious and circumstantial, of the author, before we enter into the question whether the translation is so well carried out as to enable us to pronounce for English readers some sort of verdict on the original.

In all the discussions about the intentions of Sophocles, and the moral he wished his audience to draw, it has not been noticed that, however much he may inculcate reverence for law, he was almost constrained by the political circumstances of Athens to avoid representing kings and monarchy in too favourable a light. Accordingly, in these three plays, with the single exception of Theseus, all the personages holding the royal office are drawn in odious colours. Thus Œdipus at the outset is puffed up with vain-glory, and Creon, who as a subject is wise and natural, is made on the two next occasions to act, as king, the most odious part; and the royalty of even Theseus is kept very much in the background. This republican character of whatever is really true and just is extended even to his conception of the gods. Zeus is not invoked as "almighty" without the qualification, "if that be thy title;" and the oligarchy of Destiny, the Fates, and Unknown Powers is evidently held to be in the last resort supreme. We believe this consideration to be one of the great keys for explaining what is called the "irony" of Sophocles. He wants to show the perfect ignorance under which we labour as to the meaning of life, and the springs which move events and actions. This cannot be done without the exhibition of some grim humour, of which we see the most comic side in the character of the Guard in the Antigone. To trace any equity in the terrible dispensations which fell upon the house of Labdacus would have been most insulting to every human understanding; and Sophocles is much wiser than his commentators in avoiding such a pretence. It is matter of regret that in his preface Mr. Plumptre should indulge in such moral and pulpit-like platitudes, which resemble those of Dr. Ulrichi on Shakspeare.

The Divine justice is throughout held to be a mystery. And equally so to all classes or representatives of mankind. Thus, when the Chorus are foolish enough to attribute the attempt to bury Polynice to "some Divine intent," Creon instantly exposes the absurdity; but when Creon insists too much on his being himself the fountain of justice, he is made to get the worst of the argument. The mirror is held up so true to Greek legend and experience, that it reflects every ray of thought. The prism may appear to decompose them into their original colours, but when we look at the result as a whole, we have merely the white light, which appears its natural hue to every man. Yet that he cherished some idea of providential govern ment is clear, because it is only in the mouth of a frenzied messenger that he puts the cry-

It is but chance That raises up, and chance that bringeth low.

But Tiresias, who knew the past, the pre-sent, and the future, can no more explain the real connexion of events than the victims

of unconscious criminalities.

Modern readers will, however, take much of the didactic purpose upon trust. It is not so much the idea, as the form in which it is conveyed, which will influence their earliest impressions of strange poetry. The portion to which scholars will first turn, and which will first attract the unlearned, are of course the Choruses; Mr. Plumptre gives his reasons why he has preferred to render these throughout into blank verse, rather than into rhyme. But he is not so exclusively devoted to the classical original as to imitate line for line the intricate metres of the Greek. Still we cannot admit the result to be satisfactory. The pleasure of rhyme consists partly in the certainty we feel of the sounds that are coming, and the regularity of the necessary cadence. This enables us to anticipate to some extent even

the poet's meaning, and thereby to gratify both our sense of judgment and feel assured that we have entered into the spirit of the song. In such translations as these, some little self-flattery of this kind is almost essential to induce us to keep up our attention. Nothing is so mortifying, whether in reading, or in listening to a preacher or an orator, as to find the sentences terminating in a thought or a phrase we could not in any way foresee. Now rhyme much assists in this desirable community of feeling be-tween author and reader. And when the special object is, as in the present case, to create this good understanding, the rejection of this medium destroys the best chance of producing the desired result. We do not believe that any one will discover in these English Choruses anything more than a rhythmical flow, apparently of the most capricious kind. Nor is that sufficiently reiterated to make such rules as it is fettered by at all obvious. The sense of completeness which rhyme would have given, is lost, and nothing but an acquaintance with classical prosody could direct the voice where, in many cases, to place the necessary accentuation. To some extent, therefore, these poems, to look upon them purely as such for a moment, will be very tantalizing. Now so much has been done well, they will not long remain unrivalled, and the rush upon Sophocles will probably be as great as the recent one upon Homer. Hence the question of the proper method of dealing with the Choruses assumes an importance equal to that of the contest between the modern hexameter and the blank heroic verse. Mr. Plumptre claims, and, as we think, without the possibility of a refutation, that the iambic of the tragedians exactly answers to the latter, and it seems to be equally true that a literal imitation of the other metres is impossible. Like the other, the controversy can only be settled by facts. But there is one practical difference. We can no more expect to see Lord Derby giving way to the "pestilent heresy" of the hexameter, than to see him sitting on the Treasury Bench together with Lord Russell; but Mr. Plumptre is no more bound to avoid rhyme for ever, than Lord Stanley to walk always in his father's footsteps. We hope that one who has such a consummate knowledge of the original, and who has thus obtained the confidence of the learned and unlearned alike, will, in another edition, show us, at all events in some cases, that it is not incapacity which has hitherto been his reason for not deferring to the modern weakness for rhymed poetry. It is difficult to institute a direct comparison of the two systems, because the criticism of the translation interferes with the purely æsthetical question. And perhaps it will be fairer to select from modern poetry a scene which forms nearly an exact parallel to one of the most striking situations in all Greek tragedy. We do not, indeed, compare Scott to Sophocles, or Constance de Beverley to Antigone, but perhaps no better proof of the superiority of rhyme to an English ear could be afforded than that, despite the great inferiority of the respective situations, the figure of Constance before her judges, and—

That dark dungeon, place of doom,
Of execution too, and tomb!
will not be effaced by Mr. Plumptre's description of a similar sentence:—

How, with no friends to weep,
By what stern laws condemned,
I go to that strong dungeon of the tomb,
For burial new and strange.

Coming now to the execution, we observe many amplifications which might advantageously be rescinded. Thus, instead of the three lines which represent—

Έγω διδάξω, τέκνον Αίγεως α σοι Γήρως άλυπα τζόε κείσεται πόλει. we might read—

I will inform thee, Ægeus' son, of things For thee and for thy city's green old age.

Four lines are enough to replace the six weak ones which express the ἀλλά θεός τοι καὶ θεογεννῆς. (Ant. 834.) Thus:—

She was a goddess, and goddess-born also, And we are men, descended from mortals; Yet famous it is for a being that perishes To share in the fate of beatified spirits.

And (Colon. 1751)-

Cease from your weeping, maidens. Over those With whom there passes to the distant Land The blessing which the Powers below can give, should be compressed in two lines:—

Weep no more, children. Those who do depart With such a welcome from the Powers below.

We agree with a contemporary, that the πολλὰ τὰ δεὶνὰ κὸὐδὲν ἀνθρώπου δεινότερον πέλει is very feebly and improperly translated; but we consider the real meaning of δεινὸς here to be "wonderful" or "extraordinary," like the use of ὅ δεινὸς ἀνηρ.

We do not agree with the translation of ἐννυχεύεις by "slumbering the livelong night." "Keepest perpetual watch" seems rather the idea—the Horatian "excubat in genis," or the "in domum commissabere Maximi."

δικαίων ἀδίκους φρένας παρασπᾶς is rather "drivest the wise man mad," than "makest vile the purpose of the just."

The meaning of—

Τὸν παγκοίταν δθ' ὁρῶ θαλαμον Τήνδ' Αντιγονήν ἀνύτουσαν. is quite lost in—

Wind her sad, lonely way
To that dread chamber where is room for all.
Why not—

Seeing Antigone nearing the nuptial Couch appointed for all flesh living?

καλῶς (Colon. 1693) is rendered "working for good throughout," instead of merely, "the proper ordinance of God;" and the next words, "δύ τοι κατάμεμπτ' ἔβητον" cannot be rightly translated—

The path ye tread ye need not murmur at.

κατάμεμπτ' is passive, "Ye have done nothing blameable," or "have taken no steps that can be found fault with;" προσέπεσες ες Δίκας βάθρον is scarcely, "fallest heavily where Right erects her throne," but should run—

Stretching to daring's farthest verge, Thou stumblest sore on the lofty threshold, My child, of Right.

άλίκτυπος is rather "beaten by the sea," than "that sweep the sea," as the context shows; and surely Dindorf's reading, $\delta\lambda\beta$ ος, is preferable to whatever has given "tempest-storm." But what can be better than—

Αλλ' ἔστι τοῦ λεγοντος, ει φόβους λέγοι But hangs on every breath that tells of fear.

Μέλεος μελέφ ποδί χηρεύων.

In dreary loneliness with dreary tread.

And this is quite the voice of Milton, τι δῆτα δοξῆς—

What profit is there, then, of noble fame, Or fair reports all idly floating on, If men can speak of Athens. . . .

But we prefer to give as a specimen the beginning and end of the famous speech of Ajax:—

Aias. The sword is fixed where sharpest it will pierce,

The gift (if one had time to think it out)
Of Hector, whom of all men most I loathed,
And found most hostile. And in Troia's soil,
Soil of our foes, it stands with sharpened edge,
Fresh whetted with the stone that wears the
steel;
And I have fixed it carefully and well.

And I have fixed it carefully and well, Where most it favours speedy death for him Who standath here

Who standeth here.

Come and look on me,
O Death, O Death! and yet in yonder world
I shall dwell with thee, speak enough with thee;
And thee I call, thou light of golden day,
Thou sun, who drivest on thy glorious car,
Thee, for this last time, never more again,
O light, O sacred soil of fatherland,
O Salamis, where stands my father's hearth,
Thou glorious Athens, with thy kindred race,
Ye streams and rivers here, and Troia's plain,
On you I call. Farewell, companions dear;
This last, last word does Aias speak to you;
All else I speak in Hades to the dead,

We have only one fault to find here: "Come and look on me," does not give the force of νῦν μ' ἐπίσκεψαι μολών. "Come and o'ershadow me," or "Come and bend over me," would suit the metre just as well.

Mr. Plumptre is too good a scholar to re-

Mr. Plumptre is too good a scholar to resent our notice of some slight blemishes; but our readers must not suppose that they detract much from the value of the performance. We are sure that we shall soon have to hail the appearance of his second edition; and that if he does not adopt the alterations which reviewers have suggested, his decision will be grounded on reasons which will appear sufficient both to men of taste and to scholars.

TRANSYLVANIA.

Transylvania; its Products and its People. By Charles Boner. (Longmans & Co.)

T is possible—though we doubt it—that Austria, with that singular tenacity of life observable in her history, is about to begin at last the race by which energetic nations, under good guidance, attain to prosperity. Every addition, therefore, to our know-ledge of any part of the heterogeneous assemblage of tribes and nations which is divided under the sway of Francis Joseph is just now a welcome gift. We must thank Mr. Boner for his book on Transylvania, for the many valuable facts and observations recorded in it, yet we think he has not made enough of his opportunities. He has, of course, an Englishman's right to publish his political opinions, and to express his dislike of the pernicious theory of "nationality;" but he is scarcely justified in repeating a Hungarian magnate's illmannered condemnation of M. and Madame Kossuth. The style of the book is unadorned even to baldness, and in parts the flow of the narrative is languid in the extreme. In letters written to friends who have personal knowledge of the writer, it may be worth while to jot down "here I stopped my horse and took a view of the valley." The horse and his rider form part of the picture in the imagination of the lucky recipient of the letter; but this can hardly be the case with readers of a printed book. We could adduce many instances of this sin of taking the reader into a sort of confidence which serves no purpose but that of making a good book tiresome. Condensation would infinitely have improved Mr. Boner's work.

The "country beyond the wood," with its ring fence of mountains throwing out lateral ridges from different parts of its immense circumference, must be picturesque enough. To quote one of Mr. Boner's good passages:—

This is one of the pleasing characteristics of Transylvanian scenery—there is a constantly recurring change. The traveller passes from one valley to another, and new sights are continually opening before him. The view is almost invariably bounded by wooded hills or peaks of higher range, and you have your little or your larger world all before you. But now a low hill is ascended, or the road winds round a jutting promontory in the landscape, and your world of just now is left behind, and another smiling

scene, unlike the last, appears.

But Transylvania is more. It abounds in natural riches of almost every kind-corn and wine, silver and gold, copper and coal, sulphur, alum, and salt, all are there in plenty, waiting only for the men of enterprise and capital to gather them up, and, after paying the smallest possible price, to bring them away for the use of the rest of the world. But there, as elsewhere, only man is vile. The population, amounting to about two millons, consists one-half of the Wallacks, who are much given to thieving, incendiarism, and other wicked ways. Half of the second million consists of the Hungarians and Szeklers, the nobles of the land, distinguished by many virtues, talents, and charming qualities, but ruining themselves and their country, as some think, by a certain political Pharisaism, an obstinate adherence to notions of national independence, and persistent isolation from the German people and the Vienna Government. Mr. Boner admits, in his preface, that he had formed these opinions before the recent

changes in the Austrian Cabinet, which have given to the Hungarian question a new phase. To common observers it would seem that the obstinate policy of isolation had justified

itself by triumphant success.

Next in numerical importance comes the ancient race of Saxon immigrants, the founders of the Siebenbürgen. They were among the first to adopt the Protestant faith at the time of the Reformation, and, by plodding industry, gradually grew wealthy. In their dread, however, of leaving an inheritance subject to endless division and subdivision, they have carried into practice the sugges-tions attributed to Malthus, and at every succeeding census show a decreasing popu-

There are nearly 80,000 gipsies in this singular country, and not the least interesting of Mr. Boner's chapters of the book are the accounts of his visits to the gipsy settlements, where the children run about stark naked, and sought to recommend themselves to the Englishman's bounty by racing heels over head with his post-cart, as the London gamins race with the omnibuses.

Of late years the Wallacks have acquired a large addition of importance, and disdain any other name but that of Romanen.

In their schools I was informed the children are catechised thus :-

"Of whom are we descendants?" " Of Ro-

mulus." "What were our progenitors?" "Demi-

"Name some of our forefathers." "Virgil, Cicero, Livy, &c., &c.'

The descendants of such illustrious ancestors are rather ingenious than strict in their notions of morality.

A Wallack peasant of to-day will take all the fruit in your garden or orchard—he having none, and being too indolent to cultivate any. On remonstrating with him, he will not allow it as a theft, "for what God makes grow must belong to him as much as to you."

His notions on the English game-laws would not, we fancy, be unacceptable to Mr.

Bright.

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Of the German burghers, we get many a pleasing picture, their old-fashioned ways being unchanged even by a considerable degree of the best German culture of our time. Their ancient guilds and brotherhoods, their pastors, their churches, and the castles that once protected their herds and granaries against the invader, are pleasantly treated of, but not thoroughly. A completer history of the immigrants would have been welcome in the place of the perpetually-recurring description of costume that Mr. Boner delights in. When he meets a new sort of gipsy or Wallack, he leaves not a rag of his dress untold; and yet, with all his wordpainting, he never succeeds in presenting to the mind's eye so complete and agreeable a picture of costume as that which we derive from the frontispiece of his book, "A Wallack Woman." The want of gallantry among these grave Saxon folk is illustrated by a very old joke, that appears to have been preserved like a tradition where jokes must be rare. Once when the Tartars were at Reps, and the inhabitants fled to their castle, a laggard woman fell into the hands of the invaders. Her husband, peering over the walls, beheld her borne away by one of the horde, and exclaimed with a sigh, "Alas, poor Tartar!" The story of the loss and recovery of the

crown of Hungary is new to us :-Some distance below Orsova, a few steps from the roadside, is the spot where, in 1853, the crown of Hungary was found. It had disappeared during the revolution, and not a clue could be obtained that might tell what had become of it. Four years it had laid there with the other insignia, buried in the earth, when at last an Austrian officer, by an ingenious combination of circumstances, and cunning deductions therefrom—so at least it was reported—hit upon the spot where it lay concealed. Wonderful, certainly, had it been true. The truth is, the spot was betrayed by Kossuth's secretary for 20,000 ducats. A small chapel marks the

place. It is in low ground, covered with alders and willows; but these have been cleared away immediately around the buildcleared away immediately around the building, and the plot of ground prettily laid out. In the centre of the chapel, four or five feet deep, is an excavation, walled round and guarded by a railing. At the bottom lies a marble slab, on which the crown, a globe, and sceptre are chiselled. This is the exact spot where the chest with the insignia was raised.

Could not Mr. Tom Taylor, or Mr. Boucicault, or the English Opera Company, make something of this pretty incident? Janko, the drunken and bloodthirsty Wallack revolutionary leader, would do for the character of villain, and the following charming scene of contrasts would adorn any stage. Abrudbanya, in the gold-mining district-El Dorado, Mr. Boner calls it—there was a

It was wet weather, and very muddy; yet, in the middle of the street, lying on his back in the mud, his head thrown back on the ground, with the upper part of his body quite bare, to excite commiseration, lay a Wallack beggar, ringing a bell incessantly to attract attention and obtain alms. . . . And here comes a seller of flageolets, playing and piping as he walks; and girls with white lambs in their arms; and on large snowy cloths are heaps of seeds, and golden maize. The dresses, too, are often pretty.

But here Mr. Boner is on his hobby, and we will not ride after him. If the book were the usual insipid book of travels, too many of which we are forced to read, we should not have thought it necessary to utter a word of complaint. But this volume is so inof complaint. But this volume is so in-teresting, and in places so well written, that we cannot avoid grumbling at the defects which have appeared to us. The information concerning the mining districts is most interesting and valuable, as is also the chapter upon wines, and we hope they will attract attention in the right quarter. An estate in "El Dorado" was for sale. The meadows yield 200 loads of hay yearly; there are about 350 acres of arable land and 45,000 of forest; the whole to be had for 2,000l., or less. Why do not speculators and financial companies rejoice in this golden opportunity?

CHAUCER AND ARTHUR.

Chaucer. Animadversions uppon the Annotacions and Corrections of Some Imperfections of Impressiones of Chaucer's Workes, sett downe before tyme, and nowe Reprinted in the Yere of our Lorde 1598. Sett downe by Francis Thynne. Now newly Edited from the MS. in the Bridgewater Library, by G. H. Kingsley, M.D., for "The Early English Text Society." (Trübner.)

Morte Arthure. Edited from Robert Thornton's MS. (ab. 1440 A.D.), Preserved in Lincoln Cathedral Library, by George G. Perry, M.A., Prebendary of Lincoln and Rector of Wad-dington. (Published for "The Early English Text Society," by Trübner.)

WE put Chaucer before Arthur, for we care more about him; the more we read him the more we love him, sunning ourselves in the bright sheen of his humour, and sniffing the fragrance of his verse, as on a bright spring day on his own Kent downs. The old man is the foremost and most glowing figure of all the troop of our early writers; and, of all, he is the one we can take closest home to ourselves, for he has written himself in his books, if ever writer has, and we know the man from soul to skin. But of Arthur, -who can tell what manner of man he was? Who knows even whether he ever lived? A shadowy form glooms on us from afar; but whether it is cloud of fancy, or bone of man, no living wight can say. Poets write of him, historians discuss, but we get no farther on towards knowledge of the man, and may call him Kelt or Saxon, of Devon or Cumberland, pure or crimeful, as we will.

We have not, however, in Worshipful Master Thynne's "Animadversions," any information about Chaucer the man, beyond the derivation of his name, the vindication of his Arms heraldic from being "meane," his arms bodily from beating a Franciscan friar, and the showing that he was not neces-

sarily the son of Richarde, or Richarde of "Johne Chaucer, of Londone, who (24 de anno Ed. I., A.D. 1296) was beaten and hurte, to the damage of one thowsande pownde [that some amountinge at this day (A.D. 1599) to thre thowsande pownde]." But towards the poet's text and the meaning of his words, Thynne does help us somewhat. The worthy herald was evidently put out that Master Speight should have published an edition of Chaucer without deigning to consult him, before he, the son of the poet's first editor, William Thynne, could bring out his father's edition, "reprinted, corrected, and comented after the manner of the Italians." He accordingly sat down on the 16th December, 1599, and penned as a New Year's gift to Lord Chancellor Egerton these rather sharp "Animadversions" on Speight's new edition, which Dr. Kingsley has now reproduced, Todd having first somewhat carelessly printed them. In the course of these we learn one fact, at least, that makes our mouth water, that William Thynne "had comissione to serche all the liberaries of Englande for Chaucers works, so that oute of all the Abbies of this Realme [whiche reserved anye monumentes therof] he was fully furnished with multitude of Bookes, amongst whiche one coppye of some parte of his woorkes came to his hande subscribed in divers places withe "examinatur Chaucer." If examinatur, in the fourteenth century, was equivalent to examinavit, we should indeed like to see this "coppye." Can Mr. Henry Bradshaw tell us anything of it? Is he, prince of discoverers of rarities, going to add further to his laurels by telling us where this MS. lies hid? Does he know anything of the "some fyve and twentye copies of written Bookes of Chaucer" which came to Francis Thynne after his father's death? We wait anxiously for the appearance of Mr. Brad-shaw's book to know the result of his many years' study of the poet and the MS. remains of him, and hope that among them we may hear news of examinatur Chaucer as well as William Thynne. Of one thing we rest assured, that he will help us to satisfy one of Thynne's requirements, which says:—

It would be good that Chaucers proper woorkes were distinguished from the adulterat and suche as were not his, as the Testamente of Cressyde, the Letter of Cupide, and the ballade begynnynge "I have a ladye whereso she bee," &c., whiche Chaucer never composed, as may sufficiently be

proved by the things themselves

But to return to Speight; Thynne accuses him, in fact, of fudging meanings to words, guessing when he only knew from the context what they meant, though the wording of the charge is euphemistically put thus: "in your expositione, soome wordes are not so fullye and rightly explaned as they mighte bee, althoughe peradventure you have framed them to make sence." Of these, we have only room for two, but commend them all to the student of Chaucer :-

Fermentacione you expounde Dawbinge, whiche cannott anye way be metaphoricallye so used or harsely applied. For fermentacione ys a pecu-lier terme of Alchymye, deduced from the bakers fermente or levyne. And therefore the Chimicall philosophers defyne the fermente to bee anima. the sowle or lyfe, of the philosophers stoone. Whereunto agreethe Clauiger Bincing, one chimicall author, sayinge, ante viuificationem, id est fermentacionem, whiche is before tinctinge, or gyvinge tincture or cooler; that beinge as muche to saye as gyvinge sowle or lyfe to the philosophers stoone, whereby that may fermente or cooler or gyue lyfe to all other metaline bodyes.

Fforthlye Oundye and Crispe is by you expounded slyked and curled, whiche sence althoughe yt may beare after some sorte; yet the proprytye of the true sence of oundye [beinge an especiall terme appropriate to the arte of Heraldye] dothe signifye wavinge or movinge, as the water dothe; being called *vndye*, of Latyne *vnda* for water, for so her haire was *oundye*, that is, layed in rooles vppone and downe, lyke waves of water when they are styrred with the winde,

and not slyked or playne, &c.

Dr. Kingsley has written a very pleasant and instructive preface to the book, with full de-tails as to Thynne's parentage and life, a list of his works (which, we believe, is now made

for the first time), and some nice comments on the text. We are glad that the Tract has now an individual existence, for in its former form, as one of Todd's illustrations to Gower and Chancer, it was quite overlaid, and never obtained the credit it is so well entitled to. Turning now to the "Morte Arthure,"

edited by Mr. Perry, we find it contains in the revivified alliterative verse of A.D. 1375, or thereabouts (for the text is earlier than Robert of Thorntone's transcript ab. 1440 A.D.) the narrative of Arthur's conquest of Rome, and his fatal battles with his traitor nephew (or son) Modred, on his return to England. The story of this is told in the "Arthur" printed by the "Early English Text Society" last year in about 420 lines; but the author of the "Morte Arthure" evidently thought that such a treatment of a fine subject would have been a wilful throwing away of a good opportunity, and he accordingly gives us 4,347 lines, and double ones too, on the theme. That the expansion was not made for long-windedness' sake, any reader may satisfy himself by comparing the two texts, and seeing the additional force and picturesqueness of the "Morte Arthure" verse. We have not space for the comparison here, but give from the latter text its editor's prose abstract of Arthur's fight with the giant :-

"Dress thee now, dog, soon," says Arthur, the devil have thy soul, for thou shalt die this day through dint of my hands!" Then the giant stared with amazement, and gnashed his teeth with fury. Out of his mouth there came smoke, with fury. Out of his mouth there came smoke, which covered all his face. He was hook-nosed, like a hawk, with hair up to his eyes, and beetle brows. His skin was hard, as that of a dog-fish; his ears huge and ugly; his eyes horrible and burning. Flat-mouthed, with grinning lips, and jaws like a bear. A black beard reached to his breast, with mighty bristles. The flesh of his lips was in uneven folds, each fold, like an outlaw, twisted itself out. He was bull-necked and broad in the shoulders; breasted like a boar broad in the shoulders; breasted like a boar, with huge bristles; his arms like an oak; his limbs and flanks loathly; shovel-footed and scaly, with unshapely shanks; of gigantic thickness in his haunches. Fat as a pig, he looked horrible. In height full five fathoms. Up starts this fall single and proposed the starts of the st this fell giant, and seizing an iron club, aims a blow at Arthur. The King catches it on his shield, and returns the blow with his sword, right upon the forehead. The bright blade pierces to the brain. The giant tears his face with his hands, and strikes fiercely at the King. Arthur draws back, and then drives his sword into the giant's haunch. The monster roars, and strikes at random. So mighty is his stroke, that it penetrates a sword's length into the ground. The King nearly swoons at the noise of the blow, but quickly striking him, bursts asunder his groin. His entrails and blood gush out. Then throwing away his club, the giant seizes Arthur in his arms, and encloses him cleanly to crush his ribs. The baleful birds (the giant's prisoners) pray for the success of Arthur. He and the giant have a fearful wrestling match, and fall from the top of the cliff down to the shore, sometimes Arthur over sometimes underneath. times Arthur over, sometimes underneath. At last, Arthur with an anlace stabs the giant, and he in his death-struggle breaks three of Arthur's

Take again the account of Arthur's feast to the Roman Senator who brings him the Emperor's demand for tribute for his lord:—

Right richly did they fare. Their chambers were furnished with chimneys. The Senator sat at the King's table, and was served like himself, for the Romans are of the most royal blood on earth. Boars'-heads there were, served upon silver by numerous gaily-dressed attendants. Venison fatted and wild, with choice bread, peacocks and plovers upon golden plates, sucking pigs, herons in sauce, huge swans, tarts and conserves, hams and brawn in slices, wild geese and ducks, young hawks, various stews, and made dishes, ornamented brightly, cranes and curlews roasted, rabbits served in sweet sauce, pheasants upon silver, curries made to shine bright, and numerous other dainties. Wine caused to run skilfully in silver conduits. Rare sorts served in cups of fine gold. The King's cupboard was glorious with plate. The chief butler was Sir Cayous, who served the wine in goblets decked with precious stones, which hinder the deadly effects of poison."

After this we may fairly let poem the speak for itself, and as it is not all about fighting and feasting, we take a passage which, as the editor says, "shows a keen appreciation of the beauties of nature,—the description of the river-banks and woodland copse through which Arthur and his knights ride when they go to combat the giant":—

Thane they roode by that ryver, that rynnyd so swythe,

Thare the ryndez overrechez with realle bowghez; The roo and the rayne-dere recklesse thare rounene,

In ranez and in rosers to ryotte thame selvene. All the feulez thare fleschez, that flyez with wengez, Fore thare galede the gowke one grevez fulle lowde. Of the nyghtgale notez the noisez was swette, They threpide with the throstills thre-hundreth

at ones! That whate swowynge of watyr, and syngynge of

It myghte salve hyme of sore, that sounde was nevere! —(ll. 920—932.)

Another, which he claims as breathing "a truly touching pathos,"—Arthur's lament over Gawaine's corpse,—runs thus:—

Dere kosyne o kynde, in kare am I levede!

For nowe my wirchipe es wente, and my were
endide!

Here es the hope of my hele, my happynge of armes!

My concelle, my comforthe, that kepide myne

herte! Of alle knyghtes the kynge that undir Criste lifede. My wele and my wirchipe of alle this werlde riche Was wonnene thourghe Sir Gawaine, and thourghe

his witte one! —(II. 3,957—3,965.)

The version of the Arthur story is the earlier and purer one. There is nothing of Arthur's incest, nothing of Lancelot's guilty love; Guinevere is simply seized by Modred, of whom Sir Cradok says, "He has wedded Waynore, and her (for) his wife holds, and dwells in the wild bounds of the West Marches, and has wrought her with child, as a witness tells." Arthur's last word for her is, "If Waynor have well wrought, well may she fare." he says "Into the hands." his

she fare;" he says, "Into thy hands;" his spirit passes, and he speaks no more. Having ourselves given three guineas and a-half for one of Mr. Halliwell's seventy copies of this poem in former days, we can congratulate future buyers on being now able to procure it for seven shillings, and members of the "Early English Text Society" for less than four. Our thanks are due, too, to Mr. Perry, for his careful editorship; but seeing that Sir Frederic Madden and Mr. Morris have differed as to the dialect of the poem, we should have been grateful to the present editor, if he had made a complete collection of the dialectal forms in it, so as to enable us to judge for ourselves on the point. An expansion of Mr. Morris's note in the preface to his Alliterative Poems is what we want. Certainly, the verbal plurals that have caught our eye in the "Morte Arthure" end in the Northern is, though a few are in e. Take pp. 72-3, bekyrs, schottes, wastys, scheftys, buskes, prikes, proves, satilles, enserches, discoveris, skyrmys, skayres, brittenes, wynnys, with-drawes, drisses, hyes, settes, enfeblesches, wantes-nineteen plurals in es, against four in e, wyne, come, harrawnte, lenge; and none in the Midland en, though e=en with the e off. This confirms Mr. Morris's view of the Midland adulteration of the poem. And, so far as we can judge, the general aspect of the words and forms is not Scotch, as Sir F. Madden conjectures, though it is Northern, as Mr. Morris asserts. Still, in order that the question may be finally settled, a complete collection of the dialectal indices, if we may so call them, should be made, and we should like to know whether cho, she, can be classed as either Midland or Northern. It savours of the West and South.

NEW NOVELS.

Madame Fontency. By the Author of "Madlle. Mori," "Denise," &c. (J. & C. Mozley; Masters & Son.)

As a novelist, the author of "Mademoiselle Mori" and "Denise," if not entitled to the highest, may fairly claim a place in the next rank. "Madame Fontenoy" shows no falling off. The volume consists of only two

hundred and twenty-four pages, but every page is a picture, as it were, of some true and graphic scene in domestic life, the individuality of which so engrosses the reader with its peculiar charm, that regret for a short-lived pleasure mingles with the eagerness of perusal. The detail is so perfect in its simplicity, that elaboration might have destroyed the charm. The ancient town of Rheims. with its venerable cathedral, bathed in moonlight, "majestic, solemn, vast, as if time and man had no part there," in a few well-chosen words rises up grandly as the background of the picture; while the old house of Madame Fontenoy, one of the oldest in the city, nestling close under, but opposite, the cathedral, and looking on its west end, rich with tracery and pinnacle, fretted shaft, and statue, gleams radiant through the little diamond panes of the cross-shaped windows, from which Helena Desmond takes a long and farewell look of a scene she loved so well. Hélène is the pride and darling of her grandmother, Madame Fontenoy. Her mother, Renée Fontenoy, had married an Englishman, the son of her father's partner, and returning after five years, had left Helena to be brought up by her grand-mother. That mother is now ill, and Helena is to visit her, escorted by her father, who had come over to claim her for six weeks, and no longer, from the jealous, fond, and loving care of Madame Fontency. So early estranged from home and country, Helena belonged to Rheims and to her grandmother. "Her attitude was that of a critic, interested, indeed, but not personally concerned; she was only going to England for six weeks: she was not part of the Desmond family." Helena knew little about her parents, her inquiries being discouraged. Her impression was that Renée had caused her grandmother great sorrow, and that the marriage was a discredit; "enough to enlist her feelings against her own mother, whom she scarcely remembered, while her love for Madame Fontenoy was a passion."

Arrived at last in England, the greeting of mother and sisters, and their first day of association, is a study from the life. Annette, the second child, a year younger than Helena, is a thorough English girl, with all the "health of the family. She is strong and sturdy, upright and vigorous, with a frank, sensible face, and open, bright, greyish-brown eyes; there is no beauty or grace in her at all, but she looks honest and agreeable," and is, in fact, the right hand of her delicate, timid mother, and the stay of the household. She is the one impersonation of a wholesome girlhood that we look for in fiction, but so rarely find; she does her duty heartily and honestly, and makes no pretence of being either saint or martyr, according to the sentimental fashion of our day. And when, towards the close of the tale, she mixes with the world, and her mind becomes enlarged and enriched by intercourse with good society, even its polish becomes the brighter from her contact, and she stands forth the perfect gentlewoman.

Lilias, a lovely child of nine years old, fragile as she is beautiful, is the darling of them all, from cousin Roger, the Vicar of Nutbourne, down to the "man at the gate, with the most delightful cartful of flowers." One extract, giving life-like individuality to the characters, we place before the reader. They are at dinner on that first day, and Mr. Desmond, after the particulars of the journey have been discussed, listens in turn to home news, until Annette stops short, and says—

"I am talking Hebrew, as far as Helen is concerned. Be it known to you, Helen, we have a large Sunday-school—"

"A what? I do not understand."

"Oh, what fearful ignorance! What will Roger say! he who looks on every young lady as only another teacher and parish visitor! Poor Roger! Papa, he has been congratulating himself on her coming, that he may divide the first class into two!"

"They will never understand what she says; I don't always," half whispered Lily.
"You hear, Helena?" said her father. "If

"You hear, Helena?" said her father. "If I only heard, and did not see you, I should think it was your mamma, speaking as she did

eighteen years ago, when she first came to Eng-

Mrs. Desmond looked up at him with a smile and blush so bright and girlish, that it was diffi-cult to believe her the mother of three daughters, but it faded away into mournfulness. "I was

a year older than Helena then," she observed.

After this the conversation devolved chiefly on Annette and her father; Mrs. Desmond was too much wrapt up in the joy of recovering her daughter to be inclined to talk. Helena thought it strange that Annette should be much more inclined to tell parish news, and describe the party of Sunday-school teachers, than ask anything about Rheims—Rheims, which occupied the largest share in Helena's recollections, and where her affections centred. She felt that the charm of early recollections shared together could never be theirs. It was hard to be without that broad and deep foundation for family affection.

The characters of Mr. Desmond, the Squire; of Roger, the hard working, grave, but kindly vicar, toiling in his parish and his schools, whose life of labour had nevertheless compensations, and was perhaps "happiness to him in a certain sober way;" that of Robert Leicester, the bright, intellectual, but reticent merchant, rich in all those endowments that adorn society and home life, are living and breathing men, whom we may have met and hope to meet again. The plot is simple, and unfolds itself so naturally, that we cannot spoil the reader's pleasure by giving even an outline of it. In the reading we have not missed a single word, and, if we felt any regret, it was that the last page was reached so early.

Ida Clifford; or, the Voice of God in a Dream. By Arthur Montgomery. (Marlborough & Co.) IDA's dream is but the repetition of the fundamental belief of a Christian as to the Atonement; and, therefore, as Ida dreamt what, of course, the reader presumes must have been the most essential part of her creed-unless it was that in the countenance of the guardian angel, who brings her the tidings of salvation, she was afterwards to recognize the face of her earthly lover—it is somewhat difficult to fathom why the author made her dream at all. The story is very disconnected and rambling; and, if Mr. Montgomery had any object in issuing these 503 closely-printed pages, beyond confirming young girls and old women in the belief that dreams form a connecting link between the visible and invisible worlds, we have failed to find it out. The book is intended for that class of readers which loves to call itself the Religious World; and the author probably knows his public better than we do. To such readers, no doubt, sermonizing, in which Mr. Montgomery delights to indulge, may be both charming and edifying reading.

Dunvarlich; or, Round About the Bush. By David Macrae, Author of "George Harring-ton." (Scottish Temperance League.)

This is the second best Prize Temperance Tale sent into the Scottish Temperance League, which had offered a prize of 250l. for the best, and a prize of 100l. for the second best. Ninety-nine MSS. were sent in, and, judging from this second best, what a deplorable waste of good paper has resulted from this splendid offer of the League; and what a lucky man is Mr. David Macrae to have carried off a hundred golden sovereigns for what would have entitled him scarcely to the "returned with thanks," had the precious MS. been submitted to any of the publishers of the penny periodicals, or for that which would have certainly found its way rapidly into the waste-paper basket of the editor of either of the monthlies, if the writer's ambition had led him to risk such a result. Improbable, coarse, and vulgar, the incidents trite, stale, and unprofitable, and as a whole, quite unfit to find a place on the family table, the book will rapidly pass into merited oblivion. Wishy-washy as temperance literature usually is, anything more wishy-washy than "Dunvarlich" has seldom crossed our path.

GIFT BOOKS OF THE SEASON. TESSRS. LONGMAN and Co. have issued an illustrated edition of the first series of Mr. Boyd's "Recreations of a Country Parson," of which a notice will be found in our present number, and they promise another charming volume for Christmas, similar in style to that of last year, by the authoress of "How We Spent the Summer, or a Voyage en Zigzag."—Messrs. Low and Co., besides the "Pictures of Society, Grave and Gay," with its 100 woodcut illustrations, recently noticed in our pages, send out as a companion volume to Mr. Murray's popular illustrated edition of Mrs. Barbauld's "Hymns for Children," also illustrated by Mr. James Cooper, assisted by Messrs. Kennedy, Barnes, and Small, from designs by eminent artists, Dr. Watts's "Divine and Moral Songs," a book apparently somewhat unsuited to such rich margin and page embellishment, but which Mr. Cooper has nevertheless made one of the most charming of Christmas presents. As illuminated gift books, the same firm issue "The Twenty-third Psalm," and two Christmas carols, "The Three Kings of Orient" and "Christ is Born in Bethlehem," with richly-coloured emblematic borderings and illustrations. —Messrs. Day and Son (Limited) provide for the little folk a "Sunday Alphabet by C. C., illuminated by Owen Jones," each page containing a verselet and a large illuminated mediæval capital letter. They also send forth an edition of Mr. Keble's "Evening Hymns," illustrated by Miss Eleanor Waring, the text in a bold Monkish character, printed in scarlet, and the illustrations, always appropriate and happy, in black or bistre-brown. The effect is pleasing, and the book will charm both old and young.—Messrs. Routledge and Sons are sure to be amongst the foremost in the production of beautiful Christmas books. have recently called attention to their prime favourite, "Every Boy's Annual," and to Gilbert's illuminated edition of Lamb's "Tales from Shakespeare." To these they add "A Round of Days," containing forty original poems, with seventy illustrations engraved by the Brothers Dalziel. The poetry is by Jean Ingelou, the Hon. Mrs. Norton, Amelia B. Edwards, Tom Taylor, W. Allingham, Robert Buchanan, J. Hain Friswell, Tom Hood, and others; and the illustrations are after J. D. Watson, F. Walker,
A. Houghton, Paul Gray, and others.
"Broken Victuals," by Tom Taylor, charmingly illustrated by Walker, "At the
Threshold," by Robert Buchanan, no less so by G. J. Pinwell, and "Wed last Spring," by Tom Hood, by Houghton, are amongst the best of the full-size plates; but the charm of the book is in the vignettes, several of which are quite gems in their way. Messrs. Rout-ledge also publish, "What the Moon Saw, and other Tales," by Hans Christian Ander-sen, with eighty illustrations by A. W. Bayes, engraved by the Dalziels.—Messrs Darton and Co., of St. Paul's Churchyard. publish "Peter Parley's Annual," as noticed in a former number, and announce "The Birthday Gift," "The Wedding Gift," and "Comfort to Mourners."—Messrs. Darton and Hodge, of Holborn Hill, give us a beautiful little volume, with forty engravings on wood, under the title of "The Wonders and Beauties of Creation," portrayed by Buffon, Chateaubriand, Hum-boldt, Livingstone, Ruskin, Dufferin, Tennent, &c .- The Religious Tract Society puts forth "Our Life, Illustrated by Pen and Pencil," the designs by J. D. Watson, C. H. Selous, Barnes, Wimperis, Pinwell, Noel Humphreys, and others, engraved by Messrs. Butterworth and Heath, very nicely got up as to its richly gilt binding and type and toned paper, the prose and poetry well selected, and the illustrations happy and well-executed. - From Messrs. Macmillan and Co. comes a glorious artistic treasure, a book to put on one's shelf as an antidote to a fit of the blues; "Alice's Adventures in Won-derland," by Lewis Carroll, with forty-two illustrations by John Tenniel, sure to be

run after as one of the most popular works of its class. "Old Merry's Annual," published by Messrs. Jackson, Walford, and Hodder, is the completed volume of Merry and Wise, a cheap illustrated magazine, forming a very pretty gift-book under its new title. "The Lives and Lessons of the Patriarchs Unfolded and Illustrated, by the Rev. John Cumming, D.D.," is the com-panion volume to "The Life and Lessons of Our Lord," by the same author, which Messrs. Shaw and Co. published with similar coloured and plain full-page illustrations, as a gift-book, last Christmas.

(To be continued.)

The Recreations of a Country Parson. Illus-(Longmans.)—Every one is so well aware under what signature, and in which of our monthlies these essays first appeared, that the author is quite right in concluding that not a word of preface is necessary to remind the public of those facts. To criticize these sparkling little papers is unnecessary. Perhaps the words "agreeable prosing," using the latter word in its best sense, are the most adapted for describing their general tendency. Some of them, indeed, rise above this. "The Art of Putting Things" is one of the really wittiest; and the illustra-tions of the barrister, and the bumpkin "putting the stone," are quite in keeping with the letter-press. A.K.H.B. will in this form occupy a per-manent place on many a drawing-room table.

Transatlantic Sketches; or, Sixty Days in America. (Sampson Low & Co.)—The first five of these sketches ought to have been omitted. America at all times, and especially just now, affords ample scope for any amount of graphic representation; and sea-sickness and the Liver-pool railway-station have no business to occupy one-twelfth of an artist's experience in the United States. "The Bounty Jumpers" is the first really characteristic scene, and will always have an historical interest. Then "The Darkies in Church" is good. There are but fourteen out of the thirty sketches which do the author credit. These are really valuable. The two pictures of the President's assassination are vulgar and absurd in the very highest degree.

The Book of Common Prayer, &c., as Amended... in the Royal Commission of 1661, and in Agreement with the Directory for Public Worship of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.—Liturgia Expurgata; or, the Prayer Book Amended according to the Presbyterian Revision of 1661. and Historically and Critically Reviewed. By Charles W. Shields, D.D., Philadelphia. (Trübner & Co.)—This volume represents the Prayer Book as it would have been had the suggestions of the Presbyterians in the Savoy Conference been adopted as generally as they were rejected by the Church party which was then dominant. The idea of exhibiting the proposed changes in a version is a very happy one, and appears to have been most conscientiously carried out, while the historical and critical dissertation which is appended to the Prayer Book, and occupies 188 pages, does very great credit to the diligence and research, as well as to the candour, of Dr. Shields. The task he undertook has been thoroughly well executed, and he has furnished a very valuable contribution to the literature of this subject. We do not, of course, mean to imply that all the statements in the book can be implicitly relied on; for Dr. Shields writes from a Presbyterian point of view, and his bias may require occasionally to be checked and controlled by the counter-statements of Church writers. One thing is very remarkable. Appended to the Prayer Book, are "various prayers and thanksgivings, to be used as occasion requires." This, we presume, is compiled by the editor himself. Among them we find the collects for most of the holidays and saints' days which were discarded by the Presbyterians in the Savoy Conference; and, among other prayers from ancient sources, devotions "before the communion" and "at the communion," transwould venture to recommend this interesting lated literally from the Sarum Missal! We volume to the careful study of the Revisionists and the ultra-Ritualists of these days. In it the former may learn how little they can hope to gain from a generation certainly not less averse to change than that which refused to sanction this modification of the national Prayer Book; the latter may see how much they have to lose, if their energies should result in pro-

ducing a strong Presbyterian reaction within the Church; indications of which are already apparent.

Communion Services according to the Presbyterian Form. By the Rev. J. A. Wallace. (Edinburgh.)—This is not a liturgical work, as the title might lead the unwary to imagine, but a series of meditations and addresses pres but a series of meditations and addresses preparatory to, at, and after communion, as administered among the Presbyterians. The titles of some are very quaint, and the uninitiated will scarcely understand them without an inter-preter-e.g., "Action Sermon" does not seem to have any connexion with an assize sermon; nor has the next, on "Fencing the Tables," any reference to sword-practice. Then Mr. Wallace is very allegorical, and the table of contents might incline the simple-minded to expect some account of travels and descriptions of scenery which he will not find. Thus, "Vineyards in the Wilderness," "The Well of Bethlehem," "The Cleft in the Rock," "The Garden of Spices," "Mount Pisgah," have all a figurative meaning, and the "Royal Galleries" have nothing in common with those at Dresden or Munich. Now, unless this kind of thing is remarkably well done, it had better be left alone altogether; and as Mr. Wallace is not a Thomas à Kempis nor a St. Bernard, much less an Origen, we fear that, outside the immediate circle of his own personal admirers, these divine allegories will not be very highly appreciated.

The Turf and the Racehorse. By R. C. Copperthwaite. (Day and Son.)—A certain gallant friend of ours, distinguished alike on the turf and in more deadly warfare, not long ago described to us the present position of English racing after the manner of a parable. The scene in which his allegory was laid was an Australian "bush," and the actors, with all their natural surroundings, were those which experience had taught him, as it has taught so many others, started up, whether wanted or not wanted (more usually the latter), at every turn. The land-scape was a dry, arid, thirstful land—the powers of suction of that land seemed unlimited, and it was not at all easy to say where the supply yielded by the beneficence of God or man went to after it fell upon the surface. So far his experience of the land did not appear to tempt others to follow his track; but this was but as the beginning of sorrows. Not only did nature fight against man, but Cain stood in the way, on the watch for his more favoured brother. Escaped convicts, "bush-rangers," spindle-shanked aboriginal "lords of the soil," et hoc genus omne, lurked behind what cover a solitary rock made furked behind what cover a solitary rock made for their evil ways, and woe to the explorer. Confessedly not a very healthy picture to draw. And when the reflection from such a realistic "parable" is seen in the landscape composing the "Turf kingdom," it is scarcely wonderful that many behold the land with dismay, viewing it from a far-off height; that some "thank God they are not as other men are." and that others. they are not as other men are;" and that others, less Pharisaical, and glad to see the good that is in everything, welcome, as we do, this honest and healthy book on the subject. For, indeed, Mr. Copperthwaite deserves well of his countrymen. Free from the turgid and absurdlymysterious Shibboleth in which racing oracles utter their aphorisms, or attempt to direct the "how," and "when," and "what" of racing, this book is the most welcome contribution which a practical owner and trainer of racehorses could offer to the general public; and we have no hesitation in saying, that a more valuable collection of practical hints, or a better compen-dium of useful advice, has not been compiled upon the subject.

Chitty's Collection of all the Statutes, &c. Third Edition. Four Vols. Edited by Welsby and Bevan. (Sweet; Stevens & Sons.)—It might have been anticipated by some, that Lord Westbury's labours in expurgating the statutes would have superseded this well-known book; and that no one would have had courage to undertake a new edition of it with the prospect of "The Statutes by Authority" before them. But the consolida-tion of the orders of the Court of Chancery did not interfere for one moment with the utility of Mr. Morgan's well-digested manual. And the learned editors of "Chitty" have done well not to be deterred from giving the profession what they want now, by the fear of what Parliament in its wisdom may possibly achieve under the coming Lord Chancellor, now probably a junior at the Bar. They have shown what private enterprize can do; and we need not say more than call attention to the fact, that their work is done well, is carried up to the present moment, and

We have received the first volume of Cassell's We have received the first volume of Cassell's Illustrated Shakespeare (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin); The Story of Genesis and Exodus, A.D. 1250, edited by R. Morris, Morte Arthur, A.D. 1440, by Geo. G. Perry, and Thynne's Animadversions upon Chaucer, by G. H. Kingsley, M.D., published for the early English Text Society (Trübner and Co.); The Sabbath, an Ode, by Rev. Peter Macropard & Peers by S. W. Peers Upward and Onward, a Poem, by S. W. Partridge (S. W. Partridge); Sermons Preached in Hagley Church on the Holy Communion, edited by the Hon. and Rev. W. H. Lyttelton (Bell and Daldy); Sermons on Several Occasions, by the late Rev. H. H. Swinny, with a Preface by the Lord Bishop of Oxford (Parkers); Memoirs of the Life, Character, and Writings of the Rev. Matthew Henry, by Sir John Bickerton Williams, new edition (Tegg); Jersey Legends in Verse, by T. Williams (Saunders, Otley, and Co.); Revival Sermons, by the Rev. Albert Barnes, of America, edited by the Rev. A. Weston (Tegg); Aurora, by W. T. Young (Rivingtons); Quedah, a Cruise in Japanese Waters, and The Fight on the Peinh, new editions, by Captain Sherard Osborn (Blackwood); The Manchester Psalter, &c., pointed for chanting, by the Rev. J. Troutbeck (Novello and Co., and Simpkin and Marshall; Manchester: Heywood and Son); Lays for the Future, by W. Leask, second edition (S. W. Partridge); The Oracles of God: Part I., The Revealed Cosmos, by H. F. A. Pratt. M.D. (Churchills): Sermons H. F. A. Pratt, M.D. (Churchills); Sermons Preached at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edin-burgh, by the Right Rev. C. H. Terrot, D.D., Bishop of Edinburgh (Edmonston and Douglas); Poems, by Sophia M. Eckley (Longmans); L'Histoire du Nouveau César (Londres: Pierre Vesinier); A Charge from Utopia and Inspira-tion (Trübner and Co.); the Anti-Teapot Review and the Mayfair for November. The latter contains a short biography of W. Vincent Wallace.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

Afkin (Dr.), and Barbauld (Mrs.). Evenings at Home; or, a Miscellany for the Instruction and Amusement of Young Persons. With Illustrations. Fscp. 8vo, pp. 357. Warne. 2s.

Persons. With Illustrations. Facp. Svo, pp. 357. Warne. 2s.
Antronus (J.). Elijah in the Desert: a Sacred and Descriptive
Poem. Svo. Longmans. 7s. 6d.

Aristotelis Ethica Nicomachea. Edidit emendavit crebrisque
locis parallelis e libro ipso, aliisque ejusdem auctoris
scriptes, Illustravit Jacobus E. Thorold Rogers, M. A. Editio
Altora. Facp. 8vo, pp. iil.—206. Rivingtons. 4s. 6d.

Anmarnono (Edmund J.). Poems. Facp. 8vo, pp. lv.—335.

Mozon. 10s. 6d.

Anyenus Ward (His Travels) Among the Mormons. Part 1.
On the Rampage. Part 2. Perlite Litteratoor. Edited by
E. P. Hingston. (Cheap Edition.) Facp. 8vo, sd., pp. xxx.—192.

Hotten. 1s.

Avens (Thomas). Treatise on Solar Action: Explaining the Causes of Light, Heat, Motion, and Electricity. Fsep. 8vo, pp. 43. Nall (Yarmouth). 1s. 6d.

Barclay (Hugh, LL.D.). Digest of the Law of Scotland, with Special Reference to the Office and Duties of a Justice of the Peace. 3rd Edition, revised and enlarged. 8vo, pp. vi.—1,021. Clark (Edinburgh). 35s.

Bertram (R.A.). Parable, or Divine Poesy. Illustrations in Theology and Morals. Selected from Great Divines, and Systematically Arranged. 8vo, pp. xii.—764. Pitman. 12s. Binen (Rev. George Edward, LL.D.). The Supremacy Question Considered in its Successive Phases, Theocratic, Imperial or Royal, Papal, and Popular. An Essay called forth by the Judgment of the Judicial Committee in the Case of the South African Church. 8vo, pp. iv.—71. Rivingtons. 3s.

Binl.s. The Hebrew Scriptures, Translated by Samuel Sharpe; being a Revision of the Authorized English Old Testament. 3 Vols. Fscp. 8vo, pp. v.—1,512. Whitfield. 7s. 6d. The Twenty-Four Books of the Holy Scriptures: Carefully Translated according to the Massoretic Text, after the Best Jewish Authorities. By Isaac Leeser. 18mo, pp. xii.—1,243. Träbner. 7s. 6d.

Bixis (R. W., F.S.A.). Century of Potting in the City of Wor-cester; being the History of the Royal Porcelain Works, from 1751 to 1851; to which is added a Short Account of the Celtic, Roman, and Mediæval Pottery of Worcestershire. Illus-trated. 8vo, pp. xix.—228. Quartich. 16s.

Box (A. L.). Three Gems in One Setting. The Poet's Song, Tennyson; Field Flowers, Campbell; Pilgrim Fathers, Mrs. Hemans. Illuminated. New Edition. Fsop. 4to. Ward & Lock. 12s.

Bonen (Charles). Transylvania: Its Products and its People. With Maps, Plates, and Illustrations. 8vo, pp. xiv.—842. Longmans. 21s.

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Bradley (George Granville, M.A.). The Least in the Kingdom of Heaven. A Sermon preached in Wellington College Chapel, in aid of the Indian Public Schools Fund. 8vo, sd., pp. 15. Simpkin. 6d.

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FISHERMAN'S Magazine (The). Edited by H. C. Pennell. With Plates. Vol. 2. 8vo. Chapman & Hall. 16s. Plates. Vol. 2. Svo. Chapman & Hall. 16s.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

BEAL-FIRES.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,-I have been much interested by the testimony of your intelligent correspondents to the universality of fire worship in ancient times, and to the prevalence at this day of numerous relics of it, in beal-fires, bon-fires, &c.; but as none of them has gone to the new world for evidence, I may be excused for offering a little of my own experience in the equinoctial regions of America, corroborative of the same facts.

On the night of the 23rd of June, 1851, I assisted at the celebration of the Vespers of St. John's-day, on the lake of Manaquiry, near the south shore of the Amazon, about half way between the mouth of the Rio Negro and that of the Purus. The site was a farm house, belonging to a Senhor Zanni, son of the Colonel Zanni who had acted as purveyor to Spix and Martius during their journey in the Amazon valley thirty years before. The guests, to the number of about three hundred, were of all colours, white, red, and black, and of many indefinite shades produced by the admixture of those three primitive colours. A chapel had been extemporized, and a large, gaudily-dressed doll, supposed to "present" John the Baptist, deposited therein, on an altar illumined with numerous wax At nightfall we all assembled there, and sang or said a Rosario appropriate to the occasion. Prayers ended, we were invited to eat doce (sweetmeats). A table covered with a white cloth had been extended in the verandah, and upon it was great store of doce of papaw, and upon it was great store of doce of papaw, in cups, with a spoon and a tapioca biscuit to each. The whites partook first, and afterwards the ladies and gentlemen of all colours. After doce coffee; and meanwhile, several people were occupied in lighting up a number of fires around the house. Through these fires leaped most of the young people of both sexes, thereby securing

themselves immunity from plague, pestilence, and witchcraft for the ensuing twelve months! A lad covered with an ox's skin, and wearing an ox's head and horns, was also led round the ring, and made to dance and to perform various uncouth antics, to the sound of a rude fife and the voice of his driver, who extemporized a song in praise of his ox, and descriptive of his movements. Other two dancers were a couple of giants, about twelve feet high, the one a lady, the other a gentleman—their faces of painted pasteboard, with enormous Roman noses—their bodies of the branches and leaves of trees. Within each was an Indian. This odd pair danced several pas de deux round and through the fires, which the spectators found exceedingly comic. When tired with this diversion, the verandah was cleared, and a fiddle and two or three guitars put in tune for the dance. I was gravely assured that when we had all retired from the neighbourhood of the fires, the agoutis and other animals of the forest would creep from their lairs and leap through them, precisely as I had seen the young folks do !

I may be told, and probably with truth, that this feast and the manner of celebrating it had been transplanted from the old world to the new by the Portuguese colonists. I saw afterwards similar ceremonies practised on many succeeding St. John's Eves; but throughout the Amazonian plain, in Brazil, Venezuela, and Peru, it is doubtful whether the festival had anywhere an indigenous origin. When, however, I climbed the Andes, and entered the ancient dominions of the Incas, I saw there undoubted relics of the ancient fire—and sun—worship of that people; although the epochs of the festivals had been transferred from the equinoxes and solstices to those of the Romish Church falling nearest thereto, and the ceremonies were a curious medley of Peruvian mummeries engrafted on the acts of devotion of the new faith. We have precise accounts in the

Spanish chroniclers of how those four great feasts were celebrated in various parts of Peru, at the period of the conquest. From Velasco's "Historia Antigua del Reyno de Quito" (p. 40) I extract an account of the ceremonies practised at the feast of the equinox of March, in the maternal dominions of the Inca Atahuallpa:—

"Paucar-huatay—that is, the spring month, which binds the beginning to the end of the solar year—for paucar signifies the beautiful colours of the flowery meads at that season, and huatay is a bond or knot. . . . The feast of this month, one of the four principal ones, was the only one preceded by three days of fasting, during which the fire remained extinguished in every house, and no one ate more than herbs and fruits, and that after the going down of the sun. It was a very solemn feast, and consisted of three parts. The first was the Mushuc-nina—that is, the annual renovation of the sacred fire. The Inca himself lighted it, by means of a metal speculum, called Inca-rirpo, on which he received the sun's first rays on the day of the equinox. The fire being lighted, they began the second part of the festival—namely, the offerings and sacrifices to the sun—bread and wine (chicha), perfumes, flowers, lambs, vessels of gold and silver, and fine woven tissues. These being ended, the Inca distributed with his own hands the sacred bread and wine to the people of his court, and the sacred fire was supplied to every house. The third part of the feast consisted of banquets, music, and dancing."

Although fire was thus annually renewed by obtaining it directly from the source of all terrestrial heat and life, it was one of the duties of the Virgins of the Sun to keep up the sacred fire in the Aclla-huasi (House of the Chosen), until the time again came round for its renewal; and that fire probably served for relighting those in private houses wherever they should happen to be all extinct at once.

In Leon Mera's poem, "La Virgen del Sol" (Quito, 1861), there is a sonnet describing the opening scene of the feast of Anta-citua, at the

solstice of June. I give here the sense of it :"The pale twilight tears the gloomy nocturnal veil, and gilds the horizon; soon it tinges the clouds with carmine, and the mists flee away from the dewy soil. The Inca swells with religious anxiety to see the star he submissively adores; and is agitated as the hour approaches when his deity must rise to the region of the visible heaven. At last he appears, and from his ardent disk lances a ray that strikes the polished front of his golden image in the temple! People and king adore him! The choir of his virgins offer him sweet songs! And the great high-priest perfumes his altars!"

It is scarcely necessary to remind your readers that the temples of the sun had their principal

entrance to the east, and that opposite to it was placed the sun's image—namely, a golden disk, with the likeness of a human face engraved or sculptured on it.

In traversing the wilder regions of South America, one is reminded at almost every step of how very recent an acquisition fire is. In the Montaña, or forest-clad slopes of the Eastern Cordillera, where the villages are often separated by intervals of several days' journey, rude tambos, consisting merely of bare poles and a roof, to serve as sleeping-places, have been erected at the end of each jornada. On reaching one of these towards evening—fatigued with the pre-cipitous ascents and descents, and soaked with the almost perpetual rains—I have been almost certain to find fire, where the per who carried my personal impedimenta could at once prepare the fragrant cup of coffee, which is the best restorative for the wayworn traveller in those damp forests, and one of the most precious gifts the forests, and one of the most precious gifts the old world has made to the new. Before starting the following morning, my Indian companions would heap together the embers, and place thereon some large half-rotten log or tree-root, which would smudge slowly away, and not get burnt out for two or three days. True, with the modern facilities for obtaining fire, the next occupants of the tambo would be as well served by finding only a small pile of firewood laid to their hands; but no! tradition has made it a religious duty to take precautions against the religious duty to take precautions against the fire becoming extinguished; and were this neglected, the progress of the journey would be disturbed by some mishap.

Throughout the Amazon valley such a thing as a flint is unknown in situ, save in the form of rare deposits of quartz crystals, chiefly towards its northern borders. In districts remote from civilized habitations one is struck to see with what care the Indians treasure up bits of flint, even to their minutest available fragment. In December, 1853, I visited Esmeralda, the last Christian village on the Upper Orinoco, near to which the mighty Duida rears its frowning steeps of granite, gneiss, and glittering mica to a height of over 8,000 feet. The village itself stands on a nearly semicircular plain, of about half a mile radius, whereof the right bank of the Orinoco represents the chord, and the arc is a cirque of granite blocks, fantastically piled up to a height of from 100 to 400 feet. This cirque is so like half the crater of a volcano—the other half being represented by rocks standing up here and there in the bed of the Orinoco—that I sup-pose it to have really been such. About the base of the cirque, especially near its western extremity, there lie heaps of quartz crystals; and my Indians from the Rio Negro filled each his bag with them, to serve as fire-producing material on their return to their own hearths.

There is still one Indian nation, the Macus, in the Amazon valley, who are said not to know any mode of obtaining fire unto this day. They have no settled abode, and roam chiefly in the wild forests between the rivers Negro and Japura; but I have not myself lived among them, so that I have only the testimony of other people to the allegation, and of a few Macús whom I have seen in captivity. If it be true, it is possibly more a matter of choice than of fruits and turtles' eggs-viands which many civilized people prefer to eat uncooked-and the other indigenous inhabitants have so many ways of obtaining fire by friction, that it is scarcely credible the Macus should still remain ignorant of all of them. I have myself seen fire procured by twirling a pointed stick in a hole made in another stick, and also by rubbing together the stony pericarps of the Cocurito palm (Maximiliana regia Mart.); but these are slow and often uncertain processes, now-a-days almost entirely superseded by flint-and-steel and lucifer matches, even in the remotest wildernesses of South

I shall not attempt to found a dissertation on the facts I have thus strung together, but leave your readers to make their own comparisons and draw their own conclusions. I would merely suggest that even in the old world the acquisition of fire must be a quite modern event, compared with the very remote date to which recent researches have removed man's first appearance on the earth; and that for long afterwards no method was known of producing it artificially. I need only refer to the sacred fire which the Vestal Virgins of ancient Rome were charged to nourish perpetually, and of which the ever-burning candles of modern Romish alters are the existing RICHARD SPRUCE. representatives.

Hurstpierpoint, Nov. 6.

HISTORY.*

WHAT is the difference between a systematic ordering of phenomena and a science properly so called? If there is unity of principle or design running through a diversity, however great, apparently, of circumstances, to discover and enunciate that principle or design would be science. Now, is history one consistent whole? Are its manifestations orderly and not arbitrary? Not even Professor Smith ventures to answer in the negative. The unity of mankind alone renders the true study of history possible. And if that discovery was made by mankind, no better instance could possibly be found of a natural development, culminating at last in self-consciousness.

Everything which tends to consolidate that unity prepares the way for an accurate science of history. And if Christianity has assisted in the former work, its defenders should be the first to recognize the crowning ornament to the column they are raising. This was the case with the grand old theologians, with Augustine, and with Bossuet. "The City of God" was an attempt to account, as it is now contemptuously called, for the fall of Rome, and to predict the future of the Roman world. The merit of Bossuet's grand sketch was warmly acknowledged by Comte; who showed true genius in this, at least, that he was always ready to hail intellectual merit under any disguise. It would be well if those who try to break a a lance with him would remember how many champions he has encountered, and how honourably he always parted with his

But the domain of history will not be given up without a struggle. Historians so called are loth to submit to any system which would measure their labours more or less according to their scientific accuracy, and reduce them to the position of successful novelists. We have picturebooks of natural history, and there used to be good old histories of Romulus and Remus with large print, quaint woodcuts, and delightfully short letter-press. But to the one succeeds the regular course of zoological study; to the other, some professional fancy, not a bit more accurate, and infinitely less life-like. To discover the coldness of Henry VIII. and the justice of Frederick the Great, to make Richard III. straight and Charles I. nonest, must be as grand as it was for James I. to hear Steenie lecturing upon incontinence, and Babie Charles laying down the guilt of dissimulation.

Unfortunately, there is a Nemesis for this. Professors who are fond of breaking through the rules of their being think sometimes they can suspend as easily the law of gravitation, whilst they are unconsciously displaying the necessary effects both of one and the other at the same moment. These persons have never grasped the meaning of a law of history. They think the existence of such a law

sufficiently disproved, if it can be shown that the action of an individual, or of any small knot of men, has produced great and unexpected effects, especially if these effects are in a direction which was also unexpected. This is to resemble boys who throw stones down a precipice, and mistake the natural effect for the result of their own actions. Not less superficial is the criticism upon the doctrine of averages. "Unfortunately, the average," it is said, "of one generation will not be the average of the next." No more is the average of life; but still insurance tables are not worthless. The average of every year, of every month, nay, of every day, alters. If we calculate the average duration of the existence of the ephemera, we should employ minutes or seconds to record our observations. Dealing with the actions of men, we employ years, generations, or even centuries, according as events have moved fast or slow.

But can we foresee events, says the objector? If not, there is no true science in your speculations. Now this test was invented by Comte, and applied, as an argument, à posteriori, to show the perfection to which astronomy had arrived. Science, however, existed long before it could predict, though that power may be necessary to prove that it has arrived at maturity. At all events, those who do not understand, and will not employ the methods of a science, cannot, of course, be expected to foresee anything; and whilst those who do may be counted on the fingers and are ridiculed for their attempts, we are not likely to prove the reasonableness of the pretensions of a science by the accuracy of its predictions. The science of history, like every other, can make but little progress till it is honestly embraced, and put upon a fair trial. Perhaps, after all, the timid philosophers who shrink from advancing because they have blinded their own eyes, will find there is no abyss into which they can fall. enemies have suspended them by a rope, and, as they think, over a precipice: they hold fast in frightful agony. When they can hold no longer, they will find they have been all the while but half a foot from the ground.

Once let history be taught on scientific principles, and society will have no reason to dread a relapse, though the vanguard of human improvement may sometimes be found in America, sometimes in Australasia, and sometimes again in Europe. Not that it has been always essential to the progress of society that it should be self-conscious of the path it was pursuing, or be able to point out the special problems which each nation or dominion was elaborating. But the era of exertion working ignorantly for results is gone. Genius of every sort must be now more or less self-conscious, long, at least, before it comes to light. And so it is with mankind in the mass. From the present they have come to understand the past; from a comparison of both they can even now, to some extent, forecast the future. This is a solid foundation, to the perfecting of which scholars and professors should lend their aid, even if they do not altogether like the plan of the building likely to be erected upon it. They may think a quagmire has been chosen, and that they only know the rock on which the house should be built. But their words go to deny the possibility

of the undertaking altogether. If so, they should give place to those who are willing to try. Sitting in Moses' seat, they leave the ark of the vanguard of humanity in thick darkness, or amongst the Philistines, as chance may direct, and endeavour to smite with the accusation of sacrilege those who would enshrine it in a permanent recentacle.

manent receptacle. When the conception of historical science has been so far assimilated by the public mind that a leading statesman can make it the text of an address without the fear of being misunderstood, we may be sure that its triumph is nigh. Mr. Gladstone has silenced Bossuet once and for ever. It is not Protestant theology, but Protestant scholarship which has given a final answer to one of the greatest efforts of Roman Catholic philosophy. The triumph is all the greater because in all probability it was undesigned. Lord Palmerston advised a Scotch magistracy not to pray against disease, but to take the necessary human precautions; and Buckle has claimed the ministerial rescript as an epoch in the history of civilization. What Mr. Gladstone has done is far more important. Without going sofar as saying that we owe as much to Aristotle as we do to Moses, or as much to Greece as we do to Judæa, he shows that, without the life of the former, we might have remained as destitute as one-half of mankind still is of the advantages we derive from the latter. There is nothing new in this. That the whole of the past, and no isolated part of it, enters into the preparation of every present, has been laid down recently in a manner, and fortified by arguments, which cannot be gainsaid. The exact position of Greece or Rome, whether in the providential or necessitarian government of the historical period, will never be matter of common agreement. That the welfare of mankind depends not alone on the fundamental dogmas of any religion, but also upon the teaching of the great and wise of every time, is the main fact about which the world should be solicitous. This being once frankly admitted on all sides, the next question would be the nature of the process by which the vast materials in

hand should be analyzed and arranged. If the patronage of the academical offices, which are at once the reward and the inducement to honest exertions in the vineyards of history, were to fall into hands which had a proper conception, not so much of the dignity, as it used to be called, as of the practical importance of true historical teaching to a nation, the laboursof such men would soon solve the difficulty. It is to this point our best efforts should now be directed. We ought all to join in rearing up a band neither of Comtes nor of Buckles, but of students, who, whilstthey follow the best methods they find prepared for them, will still be always prepared to hail the real Tiresias, to whom the past, the present, and the future lies alike clear and unfolded.

MISCELLANEA.

It may interest our readers to hear what is now going on in the exploring world. Dr. Livingstone intends, "by passing along the northern end of Lake Nyassa, and round the southern end of Lake Tanganyika, to ascertain the watershed of that part of Africa." The news has just arrived that Baron von der Decken, having ascended the Thula and Shamba in his

^{* &}quot;The Place of Ancient Greece in the Providential Order of the World." An Address delivered before the University of Edinburgh by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P. (Murray.)

⁽Murray.)
"Lectures on the Study of History." By
Goldwin Smith. Second Edition. (Parkers.

[&]quot;System of Modern History." Part I. By S. H. Reynolds. (Edinburgh: Black. 1865.) "Sketches of General History." By James Douglas of Cavers. (Nisbet and Co. 1865.)

own iron river steamers, has found them impracticable, and is now gone on to the Jub. M. du Chaillu has left the west coast of Equatorial Africa, with the intention of coming out at the Mediterranean-if he can. This is by far the most difficult enterprise now on foot. He was detained in the Astura country (about 150 miles from the sea), but has finally obtained his entree into the interior, and if successful, may not be heard of again for years. No further news has been received from the Leichhardt expedition in Australia. Captain Burton is in the Brazils, where he has been joined by his wife. He will at first occupy himself in writing his new book on Africa, and in studying the native languages. The programme of the Royal Geographical So-ciety contains the explorations in north-eastern Australia by the brothers Jardine; recent labours of Russian travellers along the northern borders of Central Asia, and the course of the Jaxartes; and the great geographical feat of Mr. Chandless, who has ascended one of the branches of the Amazon, and mapped 1,866 miles by astronomical observations. He went in search of the Madre de Dios, a mysterious river which flows down the slopes of the Andes east of Cusco into the impenetrable forest, where the ancient Incas, according to tradition, retreated from their Spanish enemies.

Mr. W. F. Rae, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law, is a candidate for the Chair of English Literature at University College, London. Mr. Rae has been from his youth up a contributor to several of our ablest quarterlies. His acquaint-ance is large not only with our own literature and the classics, but also with the French, the German, and the American. No one who has conversed with him, or read any of his compositions, can have any doubt about his great abilities or the versatility of his attainments. Mr. Rae may be severe sometimes in criticism, but his independence of spirit and impartiality would render him no unworthy successor of Professor Masson, to whom the past and present students of the University are raising a subscription to present a substractial taken of extern

tion to present a substantial token of esteem.

Many persons consider that the word "Vulgate," applied to the Latin version of the Bible, has reference only to the translation, "Clementis VIII. auctoritate recognita et recusa," published originally in 1592, at Rome, which is the parenttext of the present authorized Latin Vulgate. Two years previously, in 1590, an edition was issued by Clement's predecessor, "a Sixto V. recognita et approbata." This edition had been revised and corrected, sheet by sheet, by Pius himself, and was protected from alteration by sentence of excommunication upon the delinquent. Upon the death of Pius, Clement VIII. went over the book, and made upwards of 2,000 corrections, which, being printed on slips of paper, were pasted over the words and passages objected to, before the edition was sent out into the world. When the Bodleian library was founded, Dr. Thomas James was appointed librarian, and, finding both these editions in the collection, he was struck with the discrepancies in the two "infallible" texts, and published his celebrated "Bellum Papale, sive Concordia discors Sixti V. et Clementis VIII. circa Hieronymianam Editionem S. Bibliorum," in 1678. The Latin version of Jerome is the real Vulgate, and, as Dean Milman remarks, "the Vulgate was, even more, perhaps, than the Papal power, the foundation of Latin Christianity." Jerome's Bible is used in the pre-Reformation offices of the Church, the merits of which led to discussion at the late meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and upon this ground the editors of the recent Latin Prayer-book published in last Wednesday's Morning Post a vindication of their proceedings. They justify their use of the text of the pre-Reformation offices, instead of translating the present English Prayer-book into Latin, because the English Prayer-book itself is in great part translated from those very offices; and they hold that, to have translated those parts of it into Latin of their own, instead of exhibiting the originals, would have been to expose themselves to ridicule in the eyes of ecclesiastical scholars, and to the charge of extreme pretentiousness. They exclude the Articles of Religion because they desired to conform their book to the authentic standard, the "Sealed Book" of 1662. "The 'Sealed Book' does not contain the Articles. Had it contained them," they add, "we should have inserted them. It is plain, indeed, from the title-page of any English Prayer-book, that they are a distinct formulary, not properly a portion of the Prayer-book." They have used the Vulgate (as, indeed, Messrs. Bagster and Parker have done) because it was their opinion that to make a new

Latin translation of the English translations from Scripture would have been an absurd proceeding; and if they were to use any existing Latin version, the Vulgate—whatever be its inaccuracies—appeared to have a special claim, from the circumstance that, in all the revisions of the Prayer-book, the Church has placed as headings to the Psalms and Canticles the initial word of each in the Vulgate version. On the whole, the editors believe that no critic of their book will be able to produce any passage in which there is the slightest doctrinal deviation from the English which they have undertaken to represent."

A PAMPHLET of considerable interest has just been published by Viscount Bury on the treat-ment of the cattle disease by homoeopathy, as practised with great success in South Holland. In a letter to the Earl of Leicester, Lord Bury points out that homoeopathic practitioners have been admitted to the competition for a prize that has been offered for the discovery of a cure for the rinderpest. A striking instance also is given of the success of homeopathy with cattle belong-ing to a Mr. Clarke, who had tried allopathic treatment in vain. Arsenicum, rhus toxicodendron, and phosphorus are the medicaments used reand phosphorus are the medicaments used respectively according to the symptoms of the disease. In a speech made before the Norfolk Cattle Plague Association on November 4, Lord Bury stated several facts of importance, and the speech is very properly reprinted in the pamphlet. On coming to the point on which he wished particularly to dwell—the homeopathic treatment—the speaker said: "From the evidence I shall adduce I think I shall be able to change some of adduce I think I shall be able to change some of the smiles which I see around me into smiles of admiration." As one of those around was the Mr. Clarke who went home and cured his two remaining cattle by this mode of treatment after hearing Lord Bury's speech, it is to be presumed that the admiring smiles were produced. The results achieved in South Holland have been remarkable. When the statistics began to be taken the cures by homocopathy were 70 per cent., in more favourable cases 90 per cent.; giving an average from first to last of 75 per cent. It is decided to give the system a fair trial in this country, and a district in Norfolk has been given into the charge of a committee, including Lord Bury, Sir Thomas Beauchamp, and others, who will superintend the application of homocopathy to the various forms of the cattle disease, and will afterwards publish the conclusions arrived at.

ARNOLD RUGE, in the preface to his second edition of the second volume of his German translation of Buckle's "History of Civilization," speaking of the present movement in Spain against the Inquisition and the monks, refers to the work of his Radical friend, Fernando Garrido, as often amending and completing the views of Buckle with regard to Spain. He also mentions the report that Mr. Stuart Mill will edit the posthumous writings of Buckle.

MR. THOMAS C. UPHAM has just printed, at Philadelphia, "Letters, Æsthetic, Moral, and Social, Written from Europe, Egypt, and Palestine." In Philadelphia have also just appeared, "A Brief Outline of an Analysis of the Human Intellect," by J. Rush; and "Curious Facts in the History of Insects," by Frank Cowan.

The new theatre which is being built on the Boulevard des Italiens, on the site formerly occupied by the Société des Beaux Arts, will shortly open with a comedy by M. de Najac; an opera buffa by Donizetti, hitherto not represented in France; and "La Pantomime de l'Avocat," by M. Champfleury, the stage manager.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS, in conjunction with M. de Jallais, is working at a grand military drama called "Napoleon," which is to be performed at the Théâtre du Prince Imperial.

There are to be no masked balls at the opera in Paris this winter, it being feared that the têtes and débardeurs would spoil the new decorations. A series of masked balls will be given at the Théâtre du Châtelet instead.

A POLYGLOT newspaper, in English, French, German, and Italian, is to appear in Paris during the Exhibition of 1867. It will be entitled Moniteur' Polyglotte des Exposants.

THE election of Rector of the University of Edinburgh took place a few days ago. Mr. Carlyle had 657 votes, and Mr. Disraeli 310, leaving the majority for Mr. Carlyle, 347.

THE proposed changes in the administration of the Moniteur having been agreed to by the Government, the Moniteur will in future be under the direct control of the Ministry of the Interior, and M. Dalloz, hitherto the editor, will

be appointed the "chief administrator" of the

M. Ponson Du Terrail's new novel, "Les Nuits du Quartier Bréda," has just been published by M. Dentre.

THE second volume of "Journaux et Journalistes," by Alfred Scriven, will appear in Paris on Monday next.

Two remarkable specimens of Chinese art have just arrived in Paris. They consist of two marble statues of animals, each about nine feet high, which have long been known throughout the Celestial Empire as the "Lions of Kiang-Sou." They present the head of a lion beautifully sculptured, the body of a chimera, with the wings and feet of the five-clawed dragon—the national and religious emblem of the Chinese. They come from the ruins of the pagoda of Kaominse, on the banks of the river Yang-tse-Kiang, and bear an inscription dated some centuries back, recording their origin. The local authorities presented them to Vice-Admiral Jaurès, when he commanded the naval station in the Chinese and Indian Seas. It is supposed that they will ultimately be deposited in the museum of the Louvre.

Professor Masson delivered his inaugural lecture, at the University of Edinburgh, on Monday last. He made some happy allusions to the footprints of Hume, Adam Smith, Robertson, Scott, Christopher North, and others, which hallow the memories of a rich literary past, and spoke of certain interests that inhere in the spots where the fit men reside, pointing out that "in Edinburgh the conditions were still peculiarly suitable for a continuation of that resident literary activity (all the better, perhaps, because not exclusively professional) which has constituted so much of the past reputation of the city."

Messes. J. H. and J. Parker announce an interesting work by the Rev. Samuel Lysons, of Gloucester, entitled "Our British Ancestors: Who and What were They?" The work is intended to elucidate the traditional history of the early Britons by means of recent excavations, etymology, remnants of religious worship, inscriptions, craniology, and fragmentary collateral history.

In the Pantchatantra and other early eastern fables the dog of the western fabulists is always represented by the jackal. M. Quatrefages has presented to the French Academy a curious memoir on the canine race, in which he declares that dogs are nothing else but reclaimed jackals. He adds that the dog first became known in China about the time of the siege of Troy.

Some doubts having been expressed about the birthplace of Lord Palmerston, the following extract from the Scots' Magazine of November, 1784, is given by the Guardian as conclusive: "Oct 20, at Park Street, Westminster, the lady of Lord Viscount Palmerston, of a son."

MR. WILLIAM CHAMBERS, the eminent publisher, has been elected Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

On Monday the Royal Geographical Society opened its session with a very brilliant night. Mr. Samuel Baker received a public welcome at Burlington House, and read an account of his discovery of the Lake Albert Nyanza, another source of the inexhaustible Nile. This river will now number heroines among its history. Two Dutch ladies are still, we believe, exploring its branches in their own steamer; and throughout his journey of exploration, one of the most remarkable which has yet been achieved, Mr. Baker was accompanied by his wife, a young lady only twenty-four years of age. This we can declare without hesitation to be the most remarkable feat of its kind that a woman has yet achieved. The dangers she encountered in the company of her gallant husband were of no ordinary kind. Their forty armed men once threatened to fire on them, and they travelled through a climate which is perhaps the worst in the world. She suffered from several attacks of fever, and was once almost insensible during seven days from a sun-stroke which she received.

Messrs. Moxon & Co. send the following letter: "To the Editor of The Reader.—Sir,—An announcement has gone what is termed the round of the press' to the effect that Mr. Samuel Lucas is about to edit the future volumes of our 'Miniature Poets.' As this is entirely erroneous, will you permit us to contradict it in your columns, and to observe that where the selections are made from the works of living poets, they are edited by the authors. In the case of deceased writers, the task of prefacing and arrangement is entrusted to gentlemen

whose knowledge of, and taste for, the writings of the various authors whose works are to be selected from give a guarantee for the success of their labours. It is in pursuance of this principle that Mr. Lucas has undertaken to prepare a selection from the poems of the late Thomas Hood for our series, and to edit a People's Edition of his Serious and Comic Verse, particulars of which will be shortly announced. — EDW. Moxon & Co. November 14th, 1865."

MR. LILLY, of New Street, Covent Garden,

has issued a curious catalogue of works by George Wither, the poet. The list comprises one hndred and fifty works, almost all in poetry, many of which are of well-known rarity; which may be inferred from the fact that the aggregate price amounts to more than three hundred

pounds.

Mr. Bentley has in the press a translation of Amedee Guillemin's "Illustrated Handbook of Popular Astronomy," by Mr. Joseph N. Locker, whose additions will add greatly to the value of the work, which is profusely illustrated in the same style as the original French text.

On Monday last the obsequies of M. Dupin were celebrated in the Church of St. Clotilde. The approaches to the church, and the enclosed gardens in front of it, were filled with groups so numerous as greatly to impede the circulation of carriages. M. Dupin was a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour for nearly thirty years, and, as such, entitled to have his remains escorted by two battalions of infantry of the 58th and 31st of the Line, with their full band, and two companies of sappers and firemen, who opened and closed the procession from the house to the church. The chief mourners were the Count de Lentilhac, son-in-law of Baron Charles Dupin, the deceased's brother (who is said to have fallen seriously ill on the news of the death reaching him), and MM. Charles André Dupin and Eugène Dupin, sons of the youngest brother, Philip, long since dead, The pall-bearers were the Minister of Justice and M. Troplong, who is at the same time President of the Court of Cassation, in which M. Dupin long held the office of Procureur-Général, and President of the Senate. The Minister of State, Marshal Randon, Minister of War, M. Vuitry, Minister President of the Council of State, M. Duruy, Minister of Public Instruction, Marshal Canrobert, commanding the army of Paris, and other great functionaries, were present in their official capacity. The Emperor was represented by M. Neiuerkerke, Director of Museums. Besides these, the most eminent in law, science, art, and literature, were present, together with art, and literature, were present, together with crowds of others, private friends or acquaintances of the deceased, bound to him by no official tie, but who met to honour the memory of one who held so high a place among his countrymen. When the religious ceremony was ended, the coffin was taken to the Lyons Railway terminus to be transported to Raffigny, in the Nièvre, for interment by the side of the mother whose memory the deceased cherished to mother whose memory the deceased cherished to the last, and whose only epitaph is, "Here lies the mother of the three Dupins."

Our readers will learn with regret the death of Mrs. Gaskell, the author of "Mary Barton," "Ruth," "Sylvia's Lovers," "North and South," and other works of fiction, which all retain their hold on the reading public, on Sunday last, at her residence at Alton. Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, to whom reference was made in our last number, in reviewing Mrs. Gascoigne's "Agnes," was one of the earliest contributors to our pages, and her last contribution to The Reader was a review of Torrens's "Lancashire's Lesson," in the spring of the present year. She was born in the early part of the present century, and was between fifty and sixty years of age at the time of her death. In 1848 she published, anonymously, "Mary Barton," a tale of Manchester life among the working classes. This was followed by a charming Christmas story in 1850, under the title of "The Moorland Cottage." Then appeared, perhaps her best novel, "Ruth," in three volumes, in 1853; next her "Lizzie Leigh, and Other Tales," in 1854; followed by "North and South," and "Cranford," in 1855; the "Life of Charlotte Bronte, Author of Jane Eyre," in 1857; "My Lady Ludlow, and Other Tales," and "Round the Sofa," in 1859; "Right at Last, and Other Tales," in 1860; "Sylvia's Lovers," and "A Dark Night's Work," in 1863, and since then "Cousin Phillis, and Other coigne's "Agnes," was one of the earliest con-Lovers," and "A Dark Night's Work," in 1863, and since then "Cousin Phillis, and Other Tales," and "The Gray Woman, and Other Tales." Of "Sylvia's Lovers," "Cranford," "Lizzie Leigh, and Other Tales," "A Dark Night's Work," "The Gray Woman, and Other Tales," and "Cousin Phillis, and Other Tales,"

Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. have brought out cheap and elegant editions, each in a single volume, in their "Illustrated Editions of Popular Works." Mrs. Gaskell was the wife of a Unitarian minister at Manchester, and many of the tales enumerated above appeared first in some of the popular periodicals of the day. Mrs. Gaskell was reading to her daughters when she was suddenly struck by death. As the centre of home life she was always cheerful and happy in herself, and the source of happiness and pleasure to all around here. happiness and pleasure to all around her. As such she will be remembered with affectionate regret by all who knew her. The author of "Ruth" and "Sylvia's Lovers" could paint English life in its truest colours, and it is this, however fashion may change, that will make her works descend to posterity as a study both of genteel and manufacturing life of the reign of Queen Victoria, of which no other writer has given so vivid a picture.

THE death is announced of Dr. Joseph E. Worcester, author of "Worcester's Dictionary," at his residence at Cambridge, near Boston, Massachusetts, on the 27th of October, at the

age of eighty-one.

MESSRS. SOTHEBY, WILKINSON, and HODGE commence the season at their former place of business in Wellington Street, which has been completely restored since the disastrous fire, with the Shakesperian, classical, and miscellaneous library of the late Mr. William Nanson Lett-som, the translator of the "Niebelungen Lied," on Monday next. They also announce the sale of a curious collection of ballads for Saturday next, that of the library of the late John Cordey, of Gray's Inn, on the following Wednesday; a sale of very choice engravings on the 6th of December, and that of the magnificent library of the late Rev. Samuel Prince, of Bonsall, Derby-shire, on the 11th prox., and three following days.

MESSRS. SAMPSON Low and Co. have issued the following circular respecting Mr. Beeton's reprint of "The Gayworthys."—"Mr. Beeton, right we held to the exclusive publishing of 'The Gayworthys,' drew from us an admission that we had no legal claim to the same, although we then told Mr. Beeton we had undertaken the publishing of the book by the express desire of the author, and had printed it from her own manuscript, the author receiving a share in all profits. Mr. Beeton's reply to this was, 'I do not wish any knowledge I may have of the matter to be used for any purpose not mutually beneficial,' and he undertook if he published the tale in the pages of the 'Young Englishwoman' to pay us a royalty, and acknowledge that it was done by arrangement with us. We are sure, after this explanation, the trade will entertain the same feeling of surprise as ourselves at seeing the announcement made by Mr. Beeton of a shilling edition, which has been produced with a secresy and despatch worthy of such motives as obviously emanate from a desire of benefiting by the exertions and expenditure of those who have been acting fairly and honour-ably. We therefore ask the trade, in full confidence of support from them, to promote the sales of the editions which we now offer as the author's editions: Cheap edition, pp. 384, illustrated, boards, 1s. 6d.; or, a superior edition, with coloured frontispiece, 3s. 6d.—S. Low, Son, and MARSTON.

SALES BY AUCTION DURING THE WEEK :-Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge: The late Mr. W. Nanson Lettsom's Library, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; and on Saturday, A Collection of Political Ballads, Plays, Opera Libretti, Music, &c.

Mr. Hodgson: A large Collection of Modern Books and Remainders, on Wednesday, Thurs-

day, and Friday.

Messrs. Puttick and Simpson: A Miscellaneous Collection of Modern Books, on Monday and

following days.

Mr. C. J. Stevens: The very rare and remarkable Egg of the Moa, or Dinornis, from New Zealand, on Friday, along with Mr. H. Wheel-wright's Collection of Eggs and Bird Skins, col-

lected in Lapland and Sweden.

Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods: Mr.
Robert Hindmarsh Grundy's Collection of Works of Art, on Monday and nine following days.

of Art, on Monday and nine following days.

Paris: Maison Silvestre (M. J. F. Delion):

The Library of the late M. Garnier du
Bourgneuf, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday;—At the same place (M. François), the
Library of the late M. Linder, on Monday and
seven following days;—And also at the same
place (M. Potier), the Collection of French
Topographical Prints formed by the late M. G.
Desbuois, on Thursday and following days.

ARCHÆOLOGY AND SCIENCE.

ARCHÆOLOGIA.

Archaelogia; or, Miscellaneous Tracts Relating to Antiquity. Vol. XXXIX. Part II. (Pub-lished by the Society of Antiquaries.)

THE Society of Antiquaries professes to publish a yearly half-volume, containing the more important papers that have been laid before the fellows at their evening meetings during the previous session; but so irregularly is this carried out, that no one knows when to expect a forthcoming number, and as the book, when it appears, is not for-warded to the fellows by post, and is rarely, if ever, advertised, no one except the secretary, and perhaps one or two members of the council, has any knowledge of the time when a new part is produced. Things being managed after this fashion, it is not sur-prising that the book gets but slowly dis-tributed. Some F.S.A.'s drop into the society's rooms as they walk down the Strand, and have at length, after inquiries many times repeated, a new half volume of memoirs put into their hands; others, who live in the country, or whose avocations rarely lead them in the direction of Somerset House, get their books occasionally-perhaps half-adozen times in a lifetime-in larger parcels of four or five volumes at once. This oldworld way of transacting business is, we believe, an inheritance from the early days of the society, when there was no book-post, and few persons out of town employed a London bookseller. It is, however, a relic of the past which a learned body, whose desire ought to be to spread its influence as widely as possible, should at once discard. If the minor archæological societies, which the influence of the Society of Antiquaries has been the chief means of calling into existence, acted in this manner, their books would never be circulated at all, and, as a consequence, one-half of them would cease to exist.

It is really a serious loss to the public that the Archæologia is not more known. In former days it was certainly a dry, dull publication, containing very little to attract any one except the professional student of history; but of late years its articles have been of quite another character. There is hardly any line of research within the range of the subjects for whose investigation the society was incorporated that has not been followed up with marked ability. Not to mention the numerous articles on Lakedwellings, Crannoges, and the contents of Keltic, Teutonic and Gaulish sepulchres, Mr. Parker's articles on the Continental Forms of Mediæval Church Architecture, Mr. Akerman's notes on Certain Modes of Capital Punishment. known as Furca et Fossa, and Mr. Benjamin Williams' elaborate paper on the Land of Ditmarsh and the Mark Confederation, are contributions to historical literature of a character which no well-advised student will

be willing to overlook.

Antiquaries, like children, are attracted by bright colours. We would venture to say that nine out of ten of the owners of this part of the "Archæologia" would, on opening the volume, turn in the first place to the illumination with which the late Mr. Corner has so splendidly illustrated his paper on the "Law Courts of Henry VI." Considered as works of art—the art of the fac-simile maker we, of course, mean-these wonderful reproductions are among the best, if not the very best that have hitherto appeared. The illuminations that they represent are not in themselves works of very high pictorial excellence. but they are of the greatest value to all who are interested in the antiquities of our courts of law or the history of costume.

The average English gentleman who has not received a legal training-and it is not markedly different with many of those who have—is more ignorant of the processes by which the laws he lives under have been evolved than any person of similar education throughout Europe. His legal reading, if

he has had any, we may safely predicate has been confined to Blackstone's "Commentaries," with an occasional peep into Oke's "Synopsis," if he has reached the dignity of a county magistrate. As to any knowledge of how things have developed from the savage state, when men lived without any laws whatever, to the present time, when our statute-book would fill an ordinary coal-truck, he has no more conception than of that perfect and ideal law, "whose seat," Hooker tells us, is "the bosom of God," and whose voice is "the harmony of the spheres."

We do not here allude to the technical errors in detail which disfigure the popular literature, as when the author of "Askerdale Park" makes his hero, as a matter of course, inherit his dead wife's real estate, the said wife being killed in a railway accident on her wedding morning; nor to the nonsense men still continue to talk about the law of nature, as if it were an objective reality, not a mere form of thought petrified into a word-sacrament by theological and political controversy. What we now complain of is the strange historical blindness which permits men to write as if they thought that our law courts, with all their intricate machinery, the judge's red robes, the usher's wand, and the barrister's horsehair, had come down to us unaltered

from the beginning of things.

A glance at the first of these curious illuminations would explain to the most ignorant that the outward seeming of the High Court of Chancery has changed wonderfully from the time when the Lord-Chancellor's seat of honour was shared with four gentlemen—they were the Masters in Chancery—in dark yellow or mustard-coloured robes, with tonsures as large as cheese-plates.

The Court of Exchequer is, however, the most diverse from our modern practise, and is, both on pictorial and archælogical grounds, by far the most interesting of the series. We see here the presiding judge in scarlet, with a turban-like hat on his head, of the same colour, identical in form with the curious head-dresses worn by the attendants of the Papal Court in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Beside him sit four other judges, clad in mustard colour, with hats of a like hue. In the foreground of the drawing is a large square cage of wooden bars, with a solid, iron-clenched door. Peering through these bars we behold two miserable wretches, who have, somehow or other, got wrong in their accounts, and are now in safe custody, awaiting judgment for their defaults. But the strangest thing to modern eyes are the bright, parti-coloured dresses in which serjeants, counsel, and officers of the court are arrayed. This custom of wearing parti-coloured clothing was common throughout the whole of Europe during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, but it prevailed much more extensively in our dark and cloudy northern climes than in the brighter south. Mr. Corner has suggested that it arose from the habit of the great feudal lords giving liveries of their own heraldic colours to their friends and dependents. This, we do not doubt, had something to do with the fashion; but surely the same tendency of thought that originated, in heraldry, shields of diverse colours, barred quarterly, parti-per-pale or the Gironné bearing of the Campbells, whose counterparts are so common in German and French blazon, is quite sufficient to account for the barred and paled dresses of the latter Plantagenets. The art instinct of those days led people to aim at harmony with as little of uniformity as possible, and they sometimes took what we, who are less objective and pictorial in our habits, think strangely uncouth methods of attaining the end desired. That the paled, barred, and rayed dresses were not badges of service, either feudal or domestic, is evident from the fact that the highest of the nobility themselves wore them. Many tombs yet exist, like the magnificent hearse-covered grave at Tanfield, near Ripon, where a Marmion and his wife, a Saint Quintin, sleep in alabaster, side by side, the lady's robe parted par-pale with the

husband's armorial insignia on the right side and her own on the left.

The coachman's dress of to-day was the gentleman's of a century since, so the rich parti-coloured robes, which in the days of the Plantagenets were considered badge of gentle birth or honourable profession, became in latter times simple livery colours, only worn by servants, or retainers of the lower class. In 1510, at the tournament Henry VIII. gave in honour of Queen Catherine, on the birth of a prince, the attendants were dressed in paled and quartered garments of yellow and grey. Probably the latest instance of this costume being used by English servants was on the occasion of the Duke of Manchester's embassy to Venice in 1707, when his personal attendants were all vested in parti-coloured liveries. The author quotes Thomas Gybbons for the statement that the robes of a serjeantat-law were formerly parti-coloured, "in order to command respect." This, of itself, shows that the wearing of heraldic garments was in those times a mark of social rank, not of servitude. As a badge of degradation and contempt, this form of costume still lingers in some of our prisons, where the culprits are, in the language of heraldic science, vested quarterly or and azure. The hangman's dress in Sicily was, in 1815, and we believe still is, a parti-coloured suit of red and yellow.

Professor Robert Harkness has contributed a highly-interesting paper on a Crannoge found in Drumkeery Lough, in the County of Cavan. He is of opinion that the crannoge which he describes is of a date subsequent to the introduction of Christianity, and that, unlike most other Irish crannoges, if they have been accurately described, the Drumkeery fortification was not an artificial work but a natural island, protected by a stockade. The rising of the waters of the lake within the historical era had flooded this natural island, so that, before the recent drainage works, the whole of it was under water; but there is the fullest evidence that when the crannoge was made the only artificial flooring within its walls was a narrow belt surrounding the inner side of the piling.

The early pages of the volume are taken up by several elaborate papers on that fruitful source of controversy, "On what spot did Julius Cæsar land?" We cannot here enter upon the question, except to remark that, unless the geological form of the country has altered to such an extent as to make a marked change in the tidal flow, there can be no doubt that Hythe, not Deal, was the spot were the greatest of the Romans first touched our soil.

A learned paper, by Mr. Francis Morgan Nichols, on the ancient tenure known as Cornage, advocates a position which we hold to be entirely untenable—that this ancient feudal tenure was originally a payment made in respect to tenants' horned cattle, not a service by which lands were held by the winding of a horn. In this opinion Mr. Nichols stands nearly alone; and if the argument from authority be worth anything in such a case, we have the support of all the great lawyers, and nearly all the antiquaries, who have written on feudal tenure.

ASTRA CASTRA.

Astra Castra: Experiments and Adventures in the Atmosphere. By Hatton Turner, The Prince Consort's Own Rifle Brigade. (Chapman & Hall.)

THIS volume is not a record of personal experience, but is a disjointed narrative of the ascents made in balloons during the past eighty years. It is chiefly composed of extracts from newspapers and books, the compiler seldom using his pen, except to make a quotation. That he has acted judiciously in so doing is evinced by his preface, the first sentence of which runs thus: "The author has endeavoured in the following pages to do justice to the ubiquity and importance of a subject which must in some degree be of

great interest to all, for the medium which forms its basis is the air, in which we all 'live, and move, and have our being.'" Now, the subject may be important; but what is the meaning of its "ubiquity?" The latter clause of the sentence is the strangest piece of writing we ever read. How can a "medium" form a "basis," and that basis be "the air?" We then read of "the Science of Aerostation," and, further on, that "Aerostation may, indeed, be well considered as a branch of science, which displays, among other qualities, the largest amount of physical courage in its professors." To write about "the science of Aerostation," is to write as if the holder of the pen were ignorant of what constitutes a science; and to write about "a branch of science" displaying "the largest amount of physical courage in its professors," is simply to write nonsense. Were there not so many curious things in this volume, we should style the following sentence unequalled in its way. The italics are in the original:—

The author has ventured to add this contribution to the History of Aerostation, in the hope that his readers will observe how much the subject differs from other sciences in the impossibility of keeping it concealed from public observation during its progress into maturity, and of forming it into a system before it engages popular attention in an imperfect state; and this would appear to be one of the greatest difficulties with which it has to contend.

The first chapter is headed "The Dawn of Navigation compared with the Dawn of Aerostation," and begins thus: "From the Bible we learn that the directions for building the first vessel were given by God himself. Much of the ridicule that Noah had to bear may perhaps have arisen from the complete novelty of his attempt." Then we have a quotation from the Apocrypha, and this is given on the ground that it is less read than the Psalms of David, although the latter "in Psalm cvii., and other passages, refer to this subject." Pindar's Fourth Pythian is next quoted, then one of the odes of Horace, and the chapter closes with the reflection that, on account of the ease with which men can now pass from place to place, as many improvements may be made in Aerostation after the lapse of a few years, as it has taken centuries to make in marine navigation.

The second chapter is wholly made up of "elegant extracts." A long passage is quoted from Buckle's "History of Civilization," to prove that poetry should not be divorced from science; then we have quotations from Schiller, Psalm xviii., in the original and in the version of Sternhold and Hopkins; Æschylus, Pindar, Euripides, Ovid, Ariosto, Tasso, Horace, and Claudian After the poets come prose writers, the latter having this advantage over the former, that they have written works containing passages remotely connected with the subject

of Aerostation

With the third chapter the volume might have begun. There we are told of the experiments which Mongolfier made, and of the feats of daring which M. Pilâtre de Rozier and M. Charles performed, the former ascending in a fire, the latter in a gasballoon. It seems odd that for going up once in a balloon, M. Charles should have received a pension of 200l. a-year. Certainly the inventor of the gas-balloon was a wise man, for, after being pensioned because he had once risked his life in the air, he never tempted danger again. M. Pilâtre de Rozier was less prudent. Having gained universal honour by his first ascent, he not merely went up repeatedly, but did so in a balloon of his own contrivance, one in which the peculiarities of the fire and gas-balloons were combined. The result was, that after the machine had ascended to a great height, it took fire, and the inventor and his companion fell lifeless to the ground.

By far the most entertaining portion of this volume are the letters of Vincent Lunardi, the first who made an ascent in England. The effect produced, as told by

himself, was of the most overpowering kind. He writes—

The interest the spectators took in my voyage was so great, that the things I threw down were divided and preserved, as our people would relics of the most celebrated saints; and a gentlewoman, mistaking the oar [which had also been thrown down] for my person, was so affected with my supposed destruction, that she died in a few days. This circumstance being mentioned on Saturday, when I had the honour of dining with the Judges, Lord Mayor, Recorder, and Sheriff of London, I was very politely requested by one of the judges not to be concerned at the involuntary loss I had occasioned; that I had certainly saved the life of a young man, who might possibly be reformed, and be to the public a compensation for the death of the lady; for the jury were deliberating on the fate of a criminal whom, after the utmost allowance for some favourable circumstances, they must have condemned, when the balloon appeared, and a general inattention and confusion ensued. The jury were perplexed with considerations in the case, which their curiosity would not suffer them to weigh; and, being under a necessity to determine before they departed, they took the favourable side, and acquitted the criminal immediately, on which the court was adjourned to indulge itself in observing so novel a spectacle.

Lunardi, less fortunate than M. Charles, did not get a pension for his daring, but he got what some may regard as an equivalent. He was presented to his Most Gracious Majesty George III., and permitted to kiss that monarch's hand. Moreover, the King talked to him "about five minutes on the subject of Aerostation," and the Prince of Wales deigned to say "in the lively and familiar manner which is peculiar to him, 'O, Mr. Lunardi, I am very glad to see you alive.'" As Lunardi has not recorded what the King said during his five minutes' talk on the subject of Aerostation, we may infer that his remarks were more curious than coherent.

Lunardi made several ascents both in England and Scotland. At Glasgow his reception was of the most enthusiastic kind. He became the hero of the hour, being feasted by the men and caressed by the ladies. In the Glasgow Advertiser of Nov. 28, 1785, his first ascent is chronicled in swelling language. The impression made on the spectators is thus described: "Many were amusingly affected. Some shed tears, and some fainted; while others insisted that he was in compact with the devil, and ought to be looked upon as a man reprobated by the Almighty." That he was a man of extraordinary boldness admits of no question. The following passage from his letter describing this ascent proves that he was as cool as he was intrepid. He had ascended to a great height, and had entered an ocean of clouds.

When involved in these clouds, I dined, and, having emptied one bottle of its contents by making a hole in its side, as I could not uncork it, I threw it down altogether, and heard it whistle as it descended for thirty-five seconds. The wind was now due south of the compass, and, being extremely fatigued and sleepy, having scarce rested three hours the preceding night, I lay down in the bottom of the gallery. That I might not, however, incur any danger by sleeping in this extraordinary situation, I fastened a small steel-yard to a piece of rope, and this to the neck of the balloon, so that it was suspended about a foot distance from my face. The balloon was at this time keeping itself quite full by the rarefaction of air; and I was sure that when it began to descend it must become flaccid, and consequently longer, so that the steel-yard would hit my face and awake me. Without the least apprehension, therefore, I fell asleep, and enjoyed a comfortable nap for about twenty minutes, when the hook of the steel-yard got hold of my chin, and I got up at once.

Perhaps this was the most adventuresome, if not foolhardy feat ever accomplished by those who have gone up in balloons

those who have gone up in balloons.

The drawback to the accounts of balloon ascents is their monotony. After reading one or two, we cease to be interested. When they are varied it is by an accident; but even variety of this kind becomes tiresome in the end. Here and there, in this huge volume,

occurs an anecdote which amuses. In general, however, the record is as dry as would be the log-book of a Cunard steamer which has made many voyages between England and America. The following is one of the few stories, which is now given for the first time, and which merits quotation. It has been furnished by Mr. Coxwell:—

I once made a night ascent from Vauxhall Gardens, in company with two gentlemen, and, after discharging fireworks, we came down near Croydon. It was a still night, and we pulled up without a grapnel or the least possible shock. The outline of a small farmhouse caught my attention, and was nearly underneath us. We could observe, also, the flickering of a candle, as well as hear voices, which led to the conjecture that the premises were being secured for the night. "I think," said I, "we can have a bit of fun here; the parties evidently don't see us, and its ten to one they don't look up." It was unusually dark, and I sung out, "Yee-uph, give us a hand here, will ye?" At the same time I allowed the "Sylph" to drop within about thirty feet of the ground. A gouty, elderly man came hobbling along towards the hedge, candle in hand, and said, "Eh, wat want? Who's there?" "A friend," said I, "and I want to enter your dwelling." "Eh, lad, that won't do at any price. Why, drat the man, where hare ye? and what do ye want?" I then broke out in the following strain:—

Of these I am who thy protection claim, A watchful sprite, and Ariel is my name.

Then one of the gentlemen commenced singing "We fly by night," when down dropped his candle, and quickly fled the countryman, exclaiming, "Eh, Missus, but he's come at last, and no mistake!" "Who's come at last?" cried the better half, bounding out with another light. "Look ye, Sally," said he, pointing to the dim, dark outline of the balloon, "that's the old gem'man himself, or else I'm a Dutchman." To have created further fright would have been carrying a joke too far; we, therefore, informed the old pair of the nature of the apparition, but astonishment and incredulity were still so strong that one of the party had enough to do to convince them we were not demons; and it was not until the balloon was seen, felt, and smelt, and we curselves handled, that the good people believed our story of a nocturnal journey through the atmosphere.

The last portion of the appendix is, perhaps, the most surprising thing in this unique work. It is entitled "The Ascension." There is first a condensed sermon; then "Thoughts Analytically Arranged." The only use of this is to inform us how Mr. Turner can be so lavish and apt in his quotations, for he tells us—

I here desire to acknowledge the assistance I have derived from a carefully-compiled and analytically-arranged work, by Henry Southgate entitled "Many Thoughts of Many Minds." From this [valuable store I select as a specimen, for those who are still unacquainted with the work, the four following topics of great general interest, to which I add a few extracts from other authors likewise connected with the subject. These topics are, The Bible, God, Christ, and Christianity.

Having faithfully described and given specimens of the contents of this volume, we must stop. To criticise it were impossible. To characterise it is nearly as hard a task. Suffice it to say, that whether we regard the beauty of its paper, typography, or the excellence of its illustrations, the vastness of its bulk, or the heterogeneous nature of its contents, it is the most extraordinary work of the season. It is a work which a future D'Israeli will certainly enrol among his "Curiosities of Literature."

The fourteenth number of Meteorological Papers is entitled "Barometers—North and South Latitudes." Captain Maury, in 1861, published a monograph, containing nearly 7,000 barometrical observations made at sea, south of the parallel of 40°, which indicate an average diminution of about two-tenths of an inch for every five degrees of latitude. This conclusion appeared to the late Admiral Fitzroy so important as to require verification or disproof. Accordingly, he instituted an inquiry from the materials in the meteorological department, of which the results are here given. A general

agreement with Captain Maury's observations under the same latitudes was obtained. But there seems reason for supposing that the mean barometric pressure does not continue to decrease in higher southern latitudes as rapidly as between 40° and 60°. In high northern latitudes, however, the average height of the barometer was nearly an inch above the average between the corresponding southern parallels. "The existence of a great deficiency of atmosphere in high southern latitudes compared with high northern latitudes having been now proved, the question remains to be answered, Whence does it proceed? Captain Maury considers it due to an excess in the antarctic regions of aqueous vapour and its latent heat; but neither this fact, nor the great preponderance of land in the southern hemisphere, appears sufficient explantion of so great a difference. No attempt, however, will be here made to give a more satisfactory explanation. Facts are given. It is left to others to draw conclusions."

Notes for Students in Chemistry, being a Syllabus of Chemistry and Practical Chemistry. By Albert J. Bernays, Professor of Chemistry and Practical Chemistry at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, &c., &c. 2nd Edition. Pp. 92. (Churchill.)—The modest title which the author has given to this little book would lead one to look for nothing in it beyond the meagre and un-instructive skeleton which one usually finds in a syllabus. Those who take it up with this ex-pectation will be most agreeably disappointed. It might fairly be called a compendium of all the leading facts in chemistry and chemical physics. It is the most remarkable proof we have ever seen of the enormous amount of information which may be condensed into a small space by the rejection of all unnecessary words, and the studious employment of the concisest forms of expression. The matter contained in it, if stated in the usual manner, would fill a very bulky treatise, and indeed there is many a bulky treatise, and indeed there is many a bulky treatise in which there is not a tenth part as much to be found. The mode in which this wonderful condensation is effected may be judged of from the following short extract: "The conducting power of metals inversely proportioned to the resistance. Aq. 100, Cu. 91.5, Au. 64.96, Cd. 24.57, Zn. 24.06, Su. 14.01, Fe. 12.35, Pb. 8.27, Pt. 7.93, Hg. 1.74. Liquids very poor conductors compared with metals; gases insulate. Discharge through charcoal points and evolution of light; contact necessary at first. The electric light a true disruptive discharge." (P. 25.) It will be seen that these few lines comprise the essence of that these few lines comprise the essence of many pages of an ordinary manual, and they form but a fair sample of the whole book, which must have been a work of immense labour. Such a guide must, we think, prove of great value to the student. He attends lectures, and perhaps takes his few and scanty notes. But unless he works the subject well up afterwards, it will pass throught his mind like water through the meshes of a sieve. Here comes the utility of Professor Bernays' notes. None but a diligent student could understand them, so that they could not well be misapplied to "cramming." But if the subject has once been understand the notes must enable him to go even it. stood, the notes must enable him to go over it again and again with the least possible waste of time, until it is firmly fixed in his memory. The book is so well arranged, and in the main so accurate, that, in conjunction with lectures, it may often take the place of a larger work.

Strange Stories of the Animal World: a Book of Curious Contributions to Natural History. By John Timbs. Illustrated. (Griffith & Farran.)—There is much in this little book which will be useful to naturalists of some scientific reputation, as well as the young, to whom it is more especially addressed. If it was necessary to have a sketch of Cuvier, and of Cuvier alone, which seems unfair to others, it should have been much more critical, and the relation of his ideas on geology and comparative anatomy to the present state of scientific knowledge should have been more precisely indicated. Ideas of this sort become stamped on the minds of the young much according to the fashion in which they are first presented to it; and considerable responsibility lies upon those who attempt, especially when their work in some respects is very well done, to create an enduring taste for natural history. The chapter, "How Long do Animals Live," contains a great many interesting facts; but perhaps that headed "Story of the Big Bird of New Zealand" will be found of most interest at the present moment. Those who

want to buy, and those who only go out of curiosity to see the Great Egg, the only specimen of which that has ever been discovered is so soon to be publicly sold, will be glad to find in such a compact form everything which has been collected about the family of its progenitors.

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THE COLOUR OF THE BLOOD.

N observation made by Hoppe, followed by a most beautiful and scientific investigation by Professor Stokes, has recently thrown a new light on the nature of the blood, and we think our readers will feel some interest in a sketch of the results which have accrued to physiology from the discovery. We give it the more willingly, because we believe that it has not hitherto received a due share of attention from physio-

To commence with facts now almost universally well-known. If white light, say from a lamp, is made to issue from a narrow slit in a black card, and is then transmitted through the triangular piece of glass called a prism, the rays as they emerge from the prism are found to have undergone a peculiar change. Each ray of white light consists, as almost everybody knows, of an indefinite number of rays blended together. Every ray has its own peculiar tint, so that the number of possible shades of colour is, as far as we know, infinite; but for practical purposes we may and do divide them into four kinds—viz., red, yellow, green, and blue. White light is the result of the union together of these various colours. Now, when a white ray passes through a prism, the coloured rays of which it consists are bent, and the peculiarity of the matter is that each coloured ray is bent at a different angle, the red least, then the green, and most of all the blue. The result is that if a sheet of white paper be held up on the side of the prism farthest from the lamp and in a peculiar position, we see reflected upon it, not a streak of white light, but a regular series of colours all blending into one another, the red being at one end and the blue at the other. This is the phenomenon which has risen within the last few years into such immense scientific importance, under the name of the spectrum.

Hoppe observed that, if a weak solution of blood was interposed between the light and the prism, the spectrum was no longer continuous.

Two well-marked black bands now made their appearance in the green portion of it, and these had exactly the same position, whatever kind of blood was employed. No other known substance gave similar lines in the spectrum, and the experiment therefore became at once a valuable means of detecting the presence of blood. Here the matter rested, until Professor Stokes, struck with the phenomenon, set to work to investigate it further. It was evident from the first that the peculiarity must be caused by the colouring matter of the blood. For many years before this a red substance called homatin had been known, which could be prepared by a chemical process from the blood, and it was therefore universally supposed that the colour of the blood was due to this homatin. Hence it was clear that a solution of homatin ought to give the same spectrum as the blood from which it was obtained. But on trying the experiment, Professor Stokes soon found that this was not the case. Certain dark lines, were, indeed, seen in the hæmatin-spectrum, but they were utterly different, both in number, intensity, and position from the lines in the blood-spectrum.

Here, then, was an important discovery, and one which upset at once a universally received physiological tenet. Hematin is not present in the blood, but is simply a substance formed from it by the chemical operations by which it is

prepared.

Having established this point, it is obvious that the next step to be taken was to endeavour to learn something of the true blood-colour, the unknown something which caused the two black lines in the normal blood-spectrum. Not being a professed chemist, Professor Stokes did not attempt to isolate the colouring matter, but left that task to future investigators. As, how-ever, its existence could not be doubted, he gave it the name of Cruorine, to distinguish it from the hematin already known.

And now followed a series of experiments upon the nature of cruorine, which revealed some most curious and important facts. In order to make them intelligible to the non-physiological reader, it will be necessary to point out in a few words the leading characteristics of that marvellously complex fluid, the blood. As the blood flows on in its course, it is carried, as everyone knows, through the lungs. In the minute capillary

blood-vessels through which it here passes it is separated by only a thin wall of moist membrane from tiny air-cells which communicate with the external air through the throat, and in and out of which air is continually being pumped by the act of respiration. The blood which enters the lungs has a dark purple colour, and is known as venous blood; but when it emerges, and is carried back to the heart, it has acquired a scarlet tint, and is distinguished as arterial blood. In spite of the number of researches made on the subject, great doubt has always existed as to the exact nature of the change which is effected in the lungs. This much is certainly known, that somehow or other oxygen is absorbed by the blood, that this oxygen combines with carbon and hydrogen, and that this combination produces carbonic acid and water, both of which are thrown into the atmosphere during the act of expiration. Moreover, it is certain that the heat of the body is entirely due to this constant oxidation, which is therefore exactly analogous to the combustion of a lamp or candle. But how is the oxidation effected? Does the oxygen combine directly with the carbon and hydrogen as soon as it comes in contact with them, so that in fact, the whole of combustion is performed in the lungs; or is the oxygen first dissolved by the blood, which it is constantly oxidizing in all parts of its course? The first view has been abandoned for years, in consequence of one fundamental objection to it. If the whole of the combustion took place in the lungs, it is evident that the lungs and heart ought to be materially hotter than any other part of the body. But this is not found to be the case. There is but a trifling difference in temperature between the heart and the most distant vessels of the vascular system, so that the probability seems in favour of a continuous

oxidation in all parts of the body.

Our readers will now be in a position to understand the exact bearings of Professor Stokes's discovery. They will perceive that the gradual alteration of colour from scarlet to purple which blood undergoes as it flows through the vessels is attended by a constant loss of oxygen, which oxygen is employed in the formation of carbonic acid and water. This appeared to indicate the existence of two varieties of cruorine, a scarlet and a purple kind, the latter containing less oxygen than the former. The following beautiful experiment demonstrated the truth of this theory. A little clear solution of scarlet blood was placed in a tube, and the two lines in its spectrum observed. A liquid had been previously prepared by adding tartaric acid and caustic potash to a solution of protosulphate of iron (green vitriol). Such a liquid has a pale-green colour, has no perceptible effect on the spectrum, and, above all, has a most powerful affinity for oxygen, which it will absorb rapidly from the air, if ex-posed to it. A little of this solution was now added to the blood, and the result was that its scarlet colour disappeared almost immediately, and a purple tint just like that of venous blood succeeded it. It was pretty evident that the scarlet cruorine had given up oxygen to the iron-solution, and had been reduced to the purple variety. The purple liquid was now examined with the prism, and the first glance showed that the spectrum was entirely changed. The two lines had vanished, and instead there was now seen a single line rather less intense than the original ones, and in position about midway between them. This, then, was clearly the spectrum of purple cruorine, and it could be readily distinguished from that of the scarlet

The tube was now shaken with air, so as to bring oxygen in contact with the cruorine. The scarlet colour reappeared instantaneously, and in the spectrum the two lines were found to be just as distinct as ever.

This, however, was not the end of the matter. On allowing the tube to remain at rest for a short time, the purple tint returned, and the spectrum again changed, both being, however, restored to their original condition by agitation. The process may, in this manner, be repeated a number of times, until, in the end, the whole of the iron solution becomes oxidized, when, of course, its power ceases.

Here, then, we have a very simple and beautiful explanation of the mode in which oxidation is carried on in the blood. Cruorine is evidently a substance which has the power of combining with oxygen, and giving it up again with about equal ease. Blood containing a good deal of purple cruorine (although a large proportion always remains scarlet) passes into the lungs. Here, as we before remarked, it is only separated from the air-cells by a thin membrane kept moist by the blood. The oxygen of the air is dissolve d by the water of the membrane, and in this way a constant supply of oxygen is transmitted to the blood. Here it singles out and attracts the purple cruorine, combining with it and converting it into scarlet cruorine. In this state, with all its cruorine in its perfectly oxidized form, the blood sets out from the heart on its race through the body. But these conditions do not last long. The cruorine soon begins to impart some of its newly-gained oxygen to the oxidizable matters in its neighbourhood, which are in this way transformed into carbonic acid, water, and, in all probability, other more complex bodies. By the time the blood gets back to the heart, a good deal of it cruorine has been deoxidized, and hence the dark colour of venous blood. It is hence the dark colour of venous blood. It is due entirely to the presence of purple cruorine. In the lungs, the carbonic acid and a portion of the water are thrown off, and a fresh supply of oxygen taken in, so that cruorine plays the part of a mere carrier of oxygen from the air to the oxidizable materials, which last, although unable to combine directly with oxygen, can yet abstract it easily enough from cruorine. The heat produced in this slow and continuous burning is exactly equal to that which would be evolved during a more direct oxidization.

The importance of these discoveries will be apparent to all. They open out a new path in physiology, and one which, if followed with vigour, can hardly fail to lead to the most bril-

liant results.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

A NEW form of dissecting microscope, which promises to be of much service to anatomists and naturalists, has been devised by Dr. Henry Lawson, of St. Mary's Hospital, and manufac-Lawson, of St. Mary's Hospital, and manufac-tured for him by Mr. Collins, of Great Titch-field Street. It is a "simple" microscope, of the binocular kind. The stereoscopic effect, however, is not produced by the prismatic reflec-tion of one-half of the pencil of rays proceeding from the object, but is obtained by the use of two lenses, which are sections of a much larger bi-convex lens. The stage of the instrument is of gutta-percha, and forms a sort of trough, in which animals or tissues intended for dissection may be pinned and examined under water. Dr. may be pinned and examined under water. Dr. Lawson's instrument is a microscope sui generis, and deserves the attention of microscopists.

MR. THURSTON THOMPSON has found the magnesium lamp of Mr. Johnson to answer his fullest expectations in copying the pictures in the House of Lords. "Wellington Meeting Blucher at Waterloo," by Maclise, is the picture which has yielded such beautiful results, and not the "Death of Nelson," as has been pre-

viously stated.

WE learn from the Southern Monthly Magazine for September, that in the New Zealand Exhibition a specimen of the common snow grass (Schenus pauciflorus, Hook, fil.) was shown, which is exceedingly fibrous and makes excellent paper. It grows luxuriantly over the hills of the Otago and Canterbury provinces, and resembles the espartero, or Spanish grass, now used in England.

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

COMPASS OBSERVATORY AT CRONSTADT.

N THE READER of the 28th of October, you I inserted a short notice of the Compass Observatory recently established by the Russian Government at Cronstadt, of which I have the honour to be director, and also a somewhat longer notice of a work recently published by me in Russia under the title "Deviations of the Compass and Dygograms, with an Article on the Magnetic Character of an Iron-built Armour-plated Battery, Pervenetz." The notice has called forth from a writer who assumes the name of "Magnet" a letter which I think it due to myself and my country, as well as to my friends in England, to notice in some detail.

I may begin by making the amplest acknow-ledgments to England and Englishmen for almost all that I or my countrymen know on this important subject. I had, before visiting England, made myself acquainted with, and translated made myself acquainted with, and translated into Russian, the various instructions published by the British Admiralty for the correction of the deviation of the compass, and have since translated the "Admiralty Manual." I have paid several visits to this country, chiefly for the purpose of studying the science of magnetism as applied to nautical purposes; and from General Sabina, the President of the Royal Society, the Astronomer Royal, Mr. Archibald Smith, Captain

Evans, the Superintendent of the Compass Department of the Navy, and Mr. Brunton, his assistant, Mr. Balfour Stewart, Director of the Kew Observatory, and Mr. Chambers his former, and Mr. Whipple, his present assistant, Mr. Barrow, the celebrated maker of the Admiralty standard compass and other magnetical instruments, Messrs. W. W. Rundell, J. T. Towson, J. P. Napier, the late Admiral Fitzroy, and many others, I have received assistance which I cannot sufficiently acknowledge. If I have myself been able to make any addition to the general stock of knowledge on the subject, it is to be attributed to my having been thus enabled to commence in Russia with the benefit of the accumulated experience and science of England, and in some cases to my having opportunities and means of action which are wanting here.

1 will now proceed to notice in detail some of the observations in the letter.

The letter of "Magnet" takes occasion to eulogize the perfection of the Woolwich Compass Observatory in terms with the general justice of which I entirely acquiesce. I infer, however, that this eulogy is a rebuke to me, and to the friends to whom the notice is due, for not having expressly referred to it. I can only express my surprise. To have done so would have been wholly foreign to the purpose of the notice, which assumed that Englishmen were acquainted with their own institutions, and only desired to make them acquainted with what is done and proposed in Russia. But my critic is not quite correct in saying that the objects enumerated under the first five heads in the notice have been pursued at Woolwich for a quarter of a century, or are even yet pursued there.

The system which I propose to pursue at Cronstadt is—1. by means of observations of deviation and force made at many points in an iron ship while building, in the manner in which they were made by me in the Pervenetz, as mentioned in a paper on the magnetic character of that vessel, published in the "Proceedings of the Royal Society," and by the use of well-known formulæ, to make a complete investigation of the magnetic character of every iron-plated ship before launching. 2. Guided by the result of these investigations, to select positions for the compasses. 3. To arrange the iron near the compasses by introducing wood in the deck, cutting transverse beams, &c., &c., in the manner indicated in various papers by Captain Evans and Mr. Archibald Smith, so as to diminish as much as possible the effect of the iron on the compass. These are objects which I have no doubt will be, but which have not yet been, regularly pursued by the authorities at Woolwich. The fourth object, which is to give magnetical instruction to the officers of such ships, is also, I believe, not within the scope of the Woolwich Observatory.

The instruments ordered are those which are in use at Woolwich and Kew, with a few modifications for special purposes.

On the account of the contents of my work on the deviation of the compass, my critic observes that it "administers but scant justice to my many sources of information. The 'Admiralty Manual,' the only work quoted in The Reader, has been much more extensively drawn upon for purposes alike practical and theoretical than is acknowledged." I answer that my work, except as regards the appendices, is little more than a translation of the "Admiralty Manual," with a somewhat greater number of examples for practical use, and that my obligations to the "Admiralty Manual" are most fully acknowledged throughout the work.

The "Admiralty Manual" is not only a book of instructions, but it contains the first and only complete development of the mathematical theory. It is and must always remain the "Euclid" of the science, the common ground from which all investigators will start.

The writer goes on to say: "It is well that this should be generally known, or our seamen may possibly be deceived into supposing that in the literature of a country not exclusively maritime may be found more practical, and consequently more popular works on the mariner's compass than are to be found in their own." Here the writer has somewhat forgotten himself. But would seamen be deceived if they did so believe? I admit that the "Admiralty Manual" approaches very nearly to perfection, but is it absolutely perfect? Does it admit in no particular of being made more practical or more popular? Is not the want of a work more practical and more popular for the use of seamen a want felt and constantly expressed in England? I must confess that I, at least, have done what I

could, by introducing additional examples and additional explanations, to make the work founded on it even more practical and popular than it is. Whether I have in any degree succeeded can only be judged of by persons acquainted with both languages.

My critic then remarks the want, in the observations made in the Russian fleet in 1864, of obervations of force as well as deviation. The former class of observations have only been regularly made since the establishment of the observatory, which was at a later period, and the results are consequently not yet published, except in the particular cases to which he refers.

My critic then charges me with a want of recognition of the sources from which during my visit to the country I derived my information. I can only refer to the work itself, as containing most ample acknowledgments.

I am, however, charged especially with omitting due acknowledgment in the case of two magnetic charts appended to my work. The one is not the Admiralty Variation Chart, but the small index chart contained in it. This undoubtedly ought to have been expressly acknowledged—that it was not done was an accident.

The other is not, as stated in the letter, a literal copy of the chart appended to the "Report of the Liverpool Compass Committee." Although principally based on it, corrections of the lines of declination are introduced from the Admiralty Chart of 1863, and that chart is extended to latitude 61° north, the lines of declination being taken from the Admiralty Chart; the lines of dip and force for the Baltic being inserted in dotted lines from data furnished to me principally by General Sabine, and acknowledged by me in the body of the work, and partly from Gauss and Weber's Magnetic Atlas. On the face of the chart it is stated to be "compiled from the latest magnetic charts published in England and other countries." I should add that my name being appended to the maps would not be understood in Russia as any claim to be the author of the maps, but only to be responsible for their correctness.

The article describes an extensive series of experiments made by me on a hollow iron vessel about thirty feet long, four wide, and five high. There is no "mystery" in these observations; but, if I do not deceive myself, some of them are both novel and interesting. I may observe that the small size of the vessel, which my critic contrasts unfavourably with the "astounding proportions" of iron ships, has very material advantages when we come to swing and heel it.

The following experiments I believe to be novel, at least in point of publication:—

1. The observations of heeling error, combined with observations of horizontal and vertical force. The want of such observations hitherto is remarked on in the recent paper "On the Magnetism of the Iron-plated Ships of the Royal Navy," by Captain Evans and Mr. Archibald Smith.

2. Observations of vertical force made between decks. Observations of this kind have been made in the Pervenetz, but no such observations made in any English ship have been published.

3. The increasing, by means of soft iron, the directive power on a compass in the interior of an iron vessel—a matter which may become of great importance whenever compasses are placed in small places surrounded by thick iron.

In these respects, it is, as far as I know, correct to say that no observations have been discussed and published either by the Liverpool Compass Committee or by the Admiralty Compass Department.

If I may venture to criticize my critic, I would say that his mistake is in not sufficiently appreciating the elevated position which England holds in the matter in the eyes of the world. England has done so much that all the little additions and improvements, either in practice, experiment, or theory, made by other countries, however interesting or important in themselves, are quite insignificant compared to it, and not only so, but are, in general, mere deductions from and consequences of what has been done in England. This is so entirely accepted and recognized abroad, that a foreigner may, perhaps, sometimes appear wanting in recognition of the claims of England, when, in fact, he only looks on them as so well established and so universally recognized that it would be impertinent, or at least superfluous, for him to go out of his way on every occasion to express individual approval.

J. BELAVENETZ.

PROCEEDINGS, OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. — October 23. — M. Boussingault communicated the continuation of his memoir "On the Functions of the Leaves of Plants." In this he details a number of experi-ments, showing the chemical decomposition of certain gases in which leaves were exposed under the influence of sun-light.—M. Serres gave his second note "On the Anatomy of the Glyptodon." He devotes much of his paper to objections to the Darwinian theory. Great as are the alterations which organized beings undergo, they never extend so far as to approximate the animals of one class to those of another. A fish is never elevated to assume a reptilian form; the latter never attains the character of a bird; and birds never become mammalia. Even in the case of monsters, the same holds true—a monster may have two heads, two tails, and six or eight extremities, but it never goes beyond the limits of its class.—M. Chevreul contributed a note "On the Optical Illusion of the Panorama."—M. Grimaud, whose researches on cholera we alluded to in our last report, concludes his able essay on the present epidemic. He concludes that cholera is eminently contagious, and that our only safety lies in locking up our seaports against all vessels containing infection. It appears that the pilgrims at Mecca are accustomed to steep articles of dress in the blood of those who have died there of cholera, and whom they consider martyrs. This fact may account in some measure for the transmission of the disease. M. Grimaud recommends microscopical inquiries as those most likely to produce valuable results.—M. Fournie's essay upon cholera contends that cholera is due to a miasmatic poison, but otherwise the writer urges nothing of importance.-M. le Contre-Amiral Coupvent de Bois presented a useful contribution on submarine temperatures. By the aid of a peculiarly-constructed apparatus he has found—1. That the Mediterranean has at the same depth as the Atlantic a sensibly higher temperature. 2. That the deep water of the Strait of Magellan, at about the middle of the strait, is sensibly lower in temperature than the Atlantic and Pacific. 3. The temperatures of the intertropical portions of the Atlantic and Pacific at a depth of 1,700 fath. differ, that of the the Atlantic being two degrees higher than that of the Pacific. The decrease of temperature with depth diminishes as the Southern Pole is approached.—M. P. Colin shows that, contrary to the usual doctrine of physiologists, the blood of the larger arteries is much warmer than that of the larger veins, and that this is due to the æration of the fluid by the lungs. He conducted several experiments with thermometers, and in the greater number of instances found that the blood of the aorta presented a higher temperature than that of the vena cava.—The other papers were: "The Ejaculation of Aqueous Fluid from Leaves of Colocasia," by M. Musset; "The Physiological Exhaustion and the Vitality of Yeast of Beer," by M. Bechamp; "Experi-mental Researches on the Transfusion of Blood," by MM. Eulenberg and Landois; "The Organic Matter of Unwholesome Waters," by M. Monier; "Boric Ethers," by MM. Schiff and Bechi; and several unreported essays on cholera, &c.

October 30.-M. E. Chevreul communicated some remarks upon the recent discoveries of M. Niepce de Saint-Victor. The purest colours either for photographic or art purposes are, according to the former savant, to be procured only by mixing strictly complementary tints.-M. Babinet calls attention to a new case of polarization.—"Upon the Allotropic Conditions of Iron in Metallurgy," is a most important memoir communicated by M. de Cizancourt.—M. de C. Meray presented a note on the extension to simultaneous equations of Newton's formulæ for the calculations of the sums of like powers of the roots of an entire equation.—M. Lisle re-commends preparations of copper for the cure of cholera, and records some remarkable cases in support of his views.-M. Serres, who has also a paper on cholera, points out the post-mortem characters of the tissues in case of death by cholera. Besides the lesions usually described, he refers to "red points" in the central nervous system, and to an "apoplectic condition" of the "rachidien bulb."—MM. Velpeau and Dumas also presented essays upon the subject of cholera. —M. Andre Poey endeavours to show that there is no periodic return of meteors in the southern sky, and that these bodies are becoming gradually extinct from the North Pole

to the Equator.-MM. Fouque and Deville presented memoirs on the geological eruptive phenomena of Southern Italy.—The other papers were: "The Action of Monobromacetic Acid on Aniline," by MM. Michaelson and Lippmann ;-"A Product of the Oxidation of Erythrite," by M. E. Sell;—"Chemical Researches on the Myrtle of Australia," by MM. de Luca and Ubaldini;—"On Zirconium," by Dr. Phipson ;-"The Constant Relative Increase of Deaths over Births among the Coloured Population of Boston during a Period of Nine Years," by M. Boudin.

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VIENNA.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—At the meetings held on the 12th and 19th of October, the following papers were read: "On the Venation of the Grasses," by Herr Dr. Ritter von Ettingshausen;—"On the Gas-molecule," by Herr J. Loschmidt;—"The Structure and Growth of the Capillary Blood-vessels," by Herr Dr. Stricker; —"The Foraminifera and Ostracoda of Dobrudscha," by Herr Dr. Reuss;—"The Porphyry of Krakan Raibl," by Herr Dr. Tschermak.

REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.-Nov. 8, 1865.—Mr. W. J. Hamilton, President, in the chair. Messrs. Thomas William Danby, B.A., Downing College, Cambridge; William Poole King, Avon Side House, Clifton, Bristol; James L. Lobley, 50 Lansdowne Road, Kensington Park; John Richardson, C.E.; James Clifton Ward, Clapham Common; and Samuel Hansard Yockney, Mem. Inst. C.E., were elected fellows. The following communications were read:

1. "On the Submarine Forest-beds in Porlock Bay." By Mr. R. A. C. Godwin-Austen, F.R.S., For. Sec. G.S.

The submerged forest of Porlock Bay has been briefly noticed by Sir H. De la Beche, but has not been sufficiently described, inasmuch as it illustrates more clearly than the larger forests of Bridgwater Level or Swansea Bay the nature and order of the oscillations of small amount which have taken place at times shortly antecedent to the present, and which were classified by the author in this paper as follows: 1. The formation of an angular detritus and its accumulation at lower levels; at this period the land was at its highest relative elevation. 2. Forestgrowths established on the detrital beds just mentioned; the stumps of these forest-trees, some of which are of large size and great age, at present constitute the Submerged Forest. 3. Accumulation of freshwater mud (resulting probably from a depression of the land), by which the trees were killed. 4. Surface of water-plant growths on the mud-deposit, or nearly dry surface, on which the trees fell. 5. Area depressed below the sea-level, and sea-mud with Scrobiculariæ deposited. 6. Conversion of the surface into meadow-land at the level of the highest springs of the present day, caused by re-elevation. 7. Shingle, heaped up on the meadow-land, and showing that the most recent change has been one of slight depression.

This succession of changes corresponds with that of numerous other localities in the West of England, and, as Mr. Godwin-Austen considered the angular detritus (1) to be the result of subaërial weathering, which took place over this area approximately contemporaneously with the deposition of the boulder-formation in more northern districts, this Porlock submerged forest seems to fix a relative date for the rest-namely, as being subsequent to the glacial period. By this means, also, a relative date is arrived at for many of the raised beaches in the West of England, as of that near Baggy Point, where the old sea-bed, at an elevation of sixty feet, is covered by an enormous accumulation of angular débris; these raised beaches may therefore correspond in time to certain marine deposits, which, in Norfolk and Suffolk, next underlie the great "Boulder Formation.

2. "On the Marine Origin of the 'Parallel Roads' of Glen Roy." By the Rev. R. Boog

Watson, B.A., F.G.S.

After a brief description of these well-known "roads," the author gave an analysis of the two principal theories that have been started to account for their formation—namely, the icedam theory and the marine theory. With regard to the first theory, Mr. Boog Watson stated his opinion that, although it has some strong points, especially in respect of the coin-cidence between the levels of the "Cols" at the

glen-heads and those of the "roads," yet on the other hand it is weak, inasmuch as the cause assigned is extremely local in its action, while the phenomena to be explained are very general and have a wide range, terraces similar to those of Glen Roy occurring in Scandinavia and elsewhere. In the author's opinion, also, the ice-dam is impossible, and would be inefficient if possible; it would not be water-tight, and there is no place for it in the history of the post-pliocene changes in Scotland. But he remarked that objections like these cannot be urged against the marine theory, as the sea has been on the spot, and is able to perform the work required of it. At the same time the author admitted that the marine theory is not free from difficulties, the chief being the perfection and horizontality of the "roads," and their barrenness in marine organisms; and he concluded by suggesting some explanations of these apparent anomalies.

The following specimens were exhibited:-Specimens from Porlock Bay; exhibited by Mr. R. A. C. Godwin-Austen, F.R.S., For. Sec. G.S.

A miscellaneous collection of recent shells and fossil remains; presented by Sir R. I. Murchison, K.C.B., F.R.S., F.G.S.

New Cornish minerals; exhibited by Mr. Bernard H. Woodward.

Specimens of various minerals; exhibited by Mr. G. E. Roberts, F.G.S.

New corals from Malta; exhibited by Dr. P. Martin Duncan, Sec. G.S.

The new edition of the Greenough Geological Map was exhibited in the meeting-room.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Nov. 3.—The Marquis Camden, K.G., President, in the chair.

This was the opening meeting of the new session. The Chairman, on the re-assembling of the society, congratulated the meeting on the success of the annual congress at Dorchester, at which a large accession of members was received and the influence of the society was much increased. He expressed a hope that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Patron of the Institute, would favour them with his presence at the congress to be held in London in July next, and trusted every member would do his best to make the

meeting prosperous.

Mr. Albert Wray communicated a notice of certain leaden relics, bearing symbols or characters of unknown signification, found in Lithuania, and of which a description had been forwarded by the Count Tyszkievicz, hon. foreign member of the Institute. In the course of the past year, a student in the city of Drohitehin, a place of great antiquity, about twenty-five leagues west of Warsaw, found in the sandy bed of the Bug, the great tributary of the Vistula, near a large stone which had been left exposed when the waters were unusually low, about sixty pellets of lead, varying in size from about half an inch in diameter, and bearing symbols in relief. The import and date of these curious objects were wholly unknown; and the Count, with a view to have the benefit of the opinion of the Archæological Institute, had forwarded drawings in which they are represented as consisting of crosses, marks bearing resemblance to what are commonly called merchants' marks, and, in a few instances, to human heads, birds, and various strange devices. Several of these relics are pierced transversely, as if designed for suspension by means of a string passing through them. The archæologists of Wilna are of opinion that these mysterious relics, brought to light in the country formerly inhabited by the people known to ethnologists as the Sadzviaqui, and close to their ancient capital, might have served as seals appended to grants or other documents, and that the symbols or the pellets might have been personal devices, the prototypes of heraldic charges. Some of the symbols, it is remarkable, strikingly resemble the ornaments previously known to the antiquaries of other parts of Europe as occurring on the bottoms of cinerary urns and fictile vessels disinterred in the tombs of the Slavonic race. The Count Tyzkievicz, who kindly forwarded drawings of the principal devices, and gave a detailed memoir of the Jazyges and their religion, as far as can be ascertained, differs from his countrymen in their interpretation. He is inclined, on the contrary, to assign to them a religious character, and supposes them to have been used as talismanic pendants worn about the person, or suspended in places of religious worship. Mr. Albert Wray reminded the meeting that a large collection of leaden relics similar to

these, perforated like these, and, like these bearing certain symbols not dissimilar in character, was brought before the Institute some months ago, and have been described by Mr. Roach Smith. They were found in great profusion near Brough (Verteræ), in Westmoreland, and are undoubtedly Roman. Some of the examples seem to bear the marks of cohorts, or legions, whilst a few are ornamented with human heads, birds, and other devices apparently from intagli. Mr. Roach Smith's suggestion that these Westmoreland pellets were originally fastened to merchandise of some kind by strings passing through the centre, by a process not dissimilar to that employed in foreign custom-houses, may possibly apply also, Mr. Wray thought, to those found in Lithuania. If so, the little relics, which he would ascribe to at least as early a period, obviously possess considerable interest as connected with ancient commerce, and supply evidence, if the legends they bear can be satisfactorily interpreted, of the channels by which various commodities were imported at the time they were used, and other particulars regarding trade and

The Rev. H. V. Le Bas exhibited drawings and photographs of mural paintings, recently discovered at Bedfont Church, and gave a brief description of the condition in which they appeared when exposed. The most important subject was the figure of our Saviour, which shows the five wounds as wells of mercy. Three nails only were represented. From the style of treatment Canon Rock considered the work to be late in the 13th century, or even early in the 14th.

The Rev. R. P. Coates contributed a few notes of a recent visit to Bradwell-super-Mare. Early last session some Roman foundations were exposed at Bradwell, and by the kindness of Mr. Hemans, engineer of the works in process there, the Institute was made acquainted with the fact, and some of its members visited the spot. It was then supposed the exposed wall formed part of Othona (Ithanceaster), one of the Roman stations on the Saxon shore. Subsequent investigations have served to confirm this opinion. At the end of last August, when Mr. Coates visited the place, he found the walls of three sides, north, south, and west of the castrum clearly traceable; the north-west and south-west corners being rounded off, and he supposed the area included to be about six or seven acres. By the kindness of Mr. Oxley Parker, the owner of the land, and by whose liberality it is the works are carried on, he was enabled to exhibit the most important objects that had yet been disinterred. These consisted of Roman combs, spindle-whorls, fibulæ, styli, lance heads, keys, armillæ, beads, knives, a sickle, garden tools, parts of a steelyard, and upwards of two hundred Roman coins and some Saxon. Among the latter is one of Athelwolf, an unpublished variety, and one of the earliest examples of imitation of the Roman coinage.

The Rev. F. Spurrell remarked that the small chapel, St. Peter on the Wall, built of materials from the ruins of the castrum, is generally considered Norman, but it was, he thought, doubtful whether it is Norman or Roman. The meeting, however, had an opportunity of judging for itself by means of the beautiful drawings be-

Mr. J. Reynolds brought a curious specimen of Roman metallurgy in Britain, a pig of lead recently found in the old bank of the river Frome, at Bristol, and which was presented to the museum of the Institute by Mr. Bush, to whose liberality the public is indebted for the preservation of the pig found in the Mendip Hills, now in the British Museum. It was considered a valuable relia historically of Bonnard sidered a valuable relic, historically, of Roman occupation of Britain.

The Very Rev. Mons. Virtue exhibited a fine MS. psalter, with annotations in the calendar. From the dedication of the church at Orpington being inserted, Mons. Virtue concluded the work formerly belonged to that church. A chalice vail, embroidered, of English workmanship, about 1650, was exhibited by the same gentleman.

Mr. Soden Smith exhibited some silver gilt filigree and enamelled book-clasps, a carved steel gilt sword-guard and pommel, and an English late Gothic ring set with amethysts.

Count Flinski brought a ring set with ruby and containing an inscription in the ancient Arabic characters. The ring was found in Babylon, and Mr. Smith read a letter giving an account of the discovery.

Rev. M. E. C. Walcot exhibited eight leaves of French MS. of the 13th century found in Carlisle; Mr. Hewitt, the head of a tilting lance,

from the R. A. M., Woolwich; Mr. J. Reynolds a spear head, probably Saxon, found in Rushall, Wilts; and Mr. Newman two ivory mirror frames of the 14th century, and a head of cherub, of terra cotta, 16th century, the latter of Spanish workmanship.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—Nov. 14, 1865.—Dr. James Hunt, President, in the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected fellows of the Society since the vacation: A. Mercer Adam, M.D.; William Aspull, Esq.; Capt. R. Baring; Henry Walter Barlow, Esq.; Henry Thorowgood Barnes; H. Biegel, Esq., M.D.; John Bilderbeck, M.R.C.S.; Charles Booth, Esq.; W. Brookes, Esq.; Edwin Brown, Esq., F.G.S.; Captain John Harcourt Brown, R.N.; Henry Burden, Esq., A.M., M.D.; Robert Cæsar Childers, Esq.; Samuel Chinnery, Esq.; William Nathan Chipperfield, M.R.C.S.; Wm. Henry Clans; Hyde Clarke, Esq., LL.D.; F. L. Cotton, Esq.; Jonathan William Elmes; John Hawley Glover; Arthur Gordon Gordon, Esq.; John Grattan, Esq.; Upfield Green, Esq.; Rev. William Greenwell, M.A.; Charles Harding, Esq., F.R.G.S.; William Harding, Esq., M.R.C.S.; J. A. W. Harper, Esq.; Alfred G. Henriques, Esq.; Thomas Humble, Esq., M.D.; Walter Hyslop, Esq.; Major George James Ivey; Henry William Jackson, Esq., M.R.C.S.; Henry Edward Jessop, Esq., M.R.C.S.; M. W. Keene, Esq.; Major General William Lang; John Lee, LL.D., F.R.S.; John Mackenzie, Esq., M.D.; Andrew M 'Callum, Esq.; William M 'Coskey, Esq.; Arthur Mitchell, Esq., M.D.; Thos. B. Moriarty, A.B.; Thomas F. Overman, Esq.; B. H. Paul, Esq., Ph.D.; Henry Rudall, Esq.; William Bridges Rowe, Esq.; James Laudale, Esq., M.D.; F. G. Seaman, Esq., M.D.; Henry Danby Seymour, Esq., M.P.; Joseph Shepherd, Esq.; Dr. Frank Simpson; E. G. Squier, Esq., (honorary), New York; John Stanton, Esq.; D. W. Studart, Esq.; Thomas Tate, Esq., Loc. Sec. A.S.L; Thomas Tate, Esq., jun.; Samuel Timmins, Esq.; Herbert Taylor Upher, Esq.; J. R. Wevill, Esq.; Colonel Beauchamp Walker, Esq.; E. T. Wakefield, Esq.; James Alfred Wanklyn, Esq.; S. W. D. Williams, Esq., M.D.; R. Wilson, Esq.; S. W. D. Williams, Esq., M.D.; R. Wilson, Esq.; M.D. Williams, Esq., M.D.; R. Wevill, Esq.; Colonel Beauchamp Walker, Esq.; E. T. Wakefield, Esq.; James Alfred Wanklyn, Esq.; S. W. D. Williams, Esq.,

The following honorary member was elected: E. G. Squier, Esq., New York.

The following local secretaries were elected:
Joseph Anderson, Esq., Wick, Caithness;
Robert Campbell, Esq., Abbeokuta and Lagos,
West Africa; James F. Draper, Esq., 13, Duhamel Place, Jersey; M. C. Furnell, Esq.,
M.D., Cochin, Southern India; M. Alexis Fedchenko, Moscow; Alexander Michie, Esq.,
F.A.S.L., Shanghae; George Petrie, Esq., Cor.
Mem. Soc. Antiq. Scot., Kirkwall, Orkney;
George Smith, Esq., Lerwick, Zetland.

The report on the anthropological papers prepared for the British Association, September, 1865, was read by C. C. Blake, Esq.

2. "On the Archaic Anthropology of the Zetland Isles." By Dr. James Hunt, F.S.A., Pres. A.S.L. The author of the paper gave an account of a recent visit made by him to the Zetland Islands, with the object of investigating the antiquarian relics reported to exist in those islands. He first visited Unst, the most northerly of the group; but found the chief objects of interest had been previously explored. He proceeded to examine the other islands, and described the results of an exploration of several large tumuli, which were chiefly composed of burnt stones. In one of these a stone hammer was found, of a unique pattern. In the interior of most of these tumuli there were found ruins of some building. In one case the structure was nearly complete, and resembled what is known as the "beehive" house. In another tumulus there was found a large upright stone with a hole in the centre, the first instance, the author thought, of such a stone being found within a tumulus. He gave a detailed account of the discovery of an underground structure, from which were dug a large number of rough stone implements, resembling in form and size those which have been found in Pressigny le Grand, in France, and the uses of which have occasioned considerable discussion. These implements—which are not of flint, as are those of Pressigny le Grand—were exhibited to the Society, and the author brought forward the various theories current as to the objects of these and similar stone implements, at the same time stating his opinion that any definite con-clusion as to the purposes or age of these objects

could not be formed from the present data, and considered the subject as one of great importance, and deserving of further investigation by the Society. The author of the paper mentioned by name the various gentlemen to whom he was indebted for acts of courtesy whilst prosecuting his investigations, and mentioned especially the liberal donation of the Earl of Zetland, to assist in carrying out the researches which have been made under the auspices of the Anthropological Society.

3. "Report on the Zetland Anthropological Exploration." By Ralph Tate, Esq., F.G.S,, F.A.S.L.

The author described the excavations conducted under his superintendence at the Mückle Heog, Isle of Unst, Shetland, which afforded remains of many human individuals, urns formed of steatite, and bones of domestic animals, birds, and fish, with numerous shells. He described some skeletons found by him in the Island of Uyea. Two adult skeletons were lying on a bed of fishbones.

The next meeting of the Society will take place on December 5.

Institution of Civil Engineers.—Nov. 14.-John Robinson M'Lean, Esq., President, in the chair. The first meeting of the session 1865-66 was occupied by the reading of a paper on "The Telegraph to India, and its Extension to Australia and China," by Sir Charles Tilston Bright, M.P., M. Inst. C.E. After referring to the previous attempts to establish telegraphic commu-nication with India by the Red Sea, and alluding to the causes of the failure of that enterprise, the author proceeded to describe the steps taken by the Government to carry out the line through Mesopotamia and by the Persian Gulf to Kurrachee, which is now in daily operation, connecting England with Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and all the principal towns of India, and extending as far to the eastward as Rangoon. The opening of the entire line between Europe and India was delayed until the end of February in the present year, when a telegram was received in London from Kurrachee in eight hours and a-half. This was speedily followed by numerous commercial messages to and fro, and a large and remunerative traffic is now daily passing. The author, however, complained of the delays and errors arising upon the Turkish portion of the line, between Constantinople and Belgrade; the service on the portion of the line worked by the Indian Government, between India and the head of the Gulf, being performed rapidly and efficiently. The difficulties encountered by Major Champain, R.E., in the construction of the Persian telegraph, between Teheran, Ispahan, Shiraz, and Bushire, were described, and the loss of the late Colonel Patrick Stewart, R.E., and his devoted services, were feelingly alluded to. In considering the extension of telegraphic communication from Rangoon to China and Australia, the author entered upon a narration of the advantages and otherwise of the several plans proposed; and considered, although part of the line in the Malay Peninsula and elsewhere might be taken by land, that the speediest and most reliable means of carrying the object into effect would be found in the submergence of submarine cables. if properly constructed and laid. It was thought that a line might be carried, in a comparatively short time, from Rangoon to Singapore, thence to Batavia, joining the Dutch land lines there, and passing from the south-eastern extremity of Java to Timor, onwards to the Australian coast, whither the Australian land lines were rapidly advancing, and would be erected to meet the cable. From Singapore a line could be carried to China, touching at Saigon, or the Peninsula might be crossed at Mergui, and the sea line be carried thence across the Gulf of Siam.

PHILOLOGICAL 'SOCIETY.—Nov. 3.—The Rev. Dr. B. Davies in the chair.

The papers read were: I. "The Name Barmouth, and Thoughts Suggested by the Inquiry," by Professor Key. II. "On the Name of the Hottentots," by Danby P. Fry, Esq.

Professor Key's remarks on the name Barmouth

Professor Key's remarks on the name Barmouth were in agreement with the usual doctrine on the subject—viz., that it is substantially a corruption of the Welsh name Abermaw, itself a corruption of Abermawdd. The only novelty the Professor laid claim to was in the accounting for the loss of the syllable ach which belongs to the river in its ordinary form, Mawddach. This syllable, ach, Professor Key held to be the diminutive suffix which he has often treated of,

denoting little, seen in the Gaelic suffix ach and ag; and he contended that above Dolgellau the suffix was appropriately added, as the river there is but a very small one, though below it widens by aid of the sea to a respectable estuary. Thus the Professor regarded Abermaw as a slight corruption of Aber-mawdd, the dd $(=\theta)$ being dropped; while the English name Barmouth has retained the θ , but lost the initial vowel. He found a parallel case in the Scotch Aberbrothock, at the mouth of the river Brothock, also a very small stream, where, again, the suffix ock is usually dropped, so that we have both the fuller name Aberbroth, and the abbreviated Arbroath of modern maps. Mr. Key added that the Welsh in an inland town have the double name Brecon and Brecon-ock shortened to Brecknock. After this, he proceeded to the cases of Tarentum, Beneventum, &c., in ancient Italy, where the um is an addition not known in the Greek names Ταραντ, Μαλοεντ. He then treated of the root b'r or bar, round which he gathered a very large family of derivatives.

LONDON PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY .- Nov. 14. J. Glashier, Esq., F.R.S., V.-P., in the chair. The following gentlemen were elected members of the society: Messrs. J. Mudd, St. Ann's Square, Manchester; Walter B. Woodbury, Worcester Park, Surrey; J. Stewart Dismore, Windmill Street, Gravesend; J. Adams, Dalehill Potteries, Burslem; Herbert J, Robinson, Church Street, Liverpool.-Mr. Mayall read a paper "On the Construction of a Photographic Glass Room." — Mr. Hughes read a paper "On the Preparation of the Iron Developer." -Mr. Ross exhibited a portfolio of photographs taken with his new Doublet lens of 61-inch focus. They were remarkable for the width of angle included, accuracy of definition, and beauty of artistic effect.-Mr. Dallmeyer also exhibited a series of pictures taken with his new wide-angle lens, which excited the fullest admiration.-Mr. England laid on the table an extensive addition to his well-known series of views in Switzerland and Alpine scenery, dedicated, by permission, to the Alpine Club.—Mr. Stephen Thompson and Mr. Frith also exhibited some excellent views of the same localities.—Mr. Fox exhibited some pictures of especial interest —clouds, waves, &c., and also the same trees in foliage and in their denuded state.—Mr. R. S. Allan proved the value of the collodio-chloride process of Mr. Simpson in the portraits he exhibited, as did also Mr. Mayall and Mr. Robinson.—Mr. Russell Manners Gordon produced a small selection of beautiful landscapes, which seem to mark a new era in landscape photography.—Mr. Mayall's pictures taken by the solar camera adorned the walls of the room, and afforded much gratification to the meeting, particularly a life-sized portrait of John Bright, M.P., coloured in oil, and plain untouched photographs of the Poet Laureate and Mr. Mayall himself.

Anglo-Biblical Institute.—Nov. 7.—Mr. F. H. Parker in the chair.

A paper by Mr. F. Barham, on the "Book of Job," was read. It had reference to a new version of this remarkable book, by the author of the paper, in which he explained the principles which guided him in the prosecution of the work. He said that, although this venerable document has received the most critical attention, and given rise to an immense number of translations, and that much has been done to elucidate this marvellous primeval tragedy, still so much remains to tantalize and perplex the reader, that there is certainly room for some abler interpretation than has yet appeared. The key to the argument of Job, in the author's opinion, is the declaration of Jehovah himself, "my servant Job hath spoken that which is right concerning me." Bearing this infallible dictum in mind, he has endeavoured to avoid the mistake of other translators, who, in rendering the speeches of the patriarch, have given the impression that he was at times impatient, unresigned, irascible, and presumptuous to an extraordinary degree. In consequence the patience of Job does not appear, and the triumph of piety is rendered doubtful; the words of the Deity seem to be unverified, and those of Satan to be scarcely refuted.

Mr. Barham was disposed to identify Job with

Mr. Barham was disposed to identify Job with Jobab, the son of Joktan (Gen. x. 29), and to believe that Elihu was the author of the book. In an interesting discussion which followed, several of the author's conclusions were warmly

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Mills) then exhibited several fragments of the Samaritan Pentateuch written upon vellum, some of which is supposed to be as old as the tenth century.

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ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN.— General Monthly Meeting, Nov. 6.—Sir Henry Holland, Bart., M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., President, in the chair. Messrs. D. Chauncy Beale and Protheroe Smith, M.D., were elected members of the Royal Institution.

The special thanks of the meeting were returned for the following additions to "The Donation Fund for the Promotion of Experimental Researches:" Professor Faraday (third donation), 20l.

CAMBRIDGE.

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY. — Nov. 13. — "A Sketch of the Geology of the Valley of Dent, with some Account of a Destructive Avalanche which Fell there in the Year 1752," by Professor Sedgwick, F.R.S. After an interesting and lucid sketch of the geology of the west of Yorkshire and east of Westmoreland, Professor Sedgwick described the characteristics of the valley of Dent, one of the lateral dales which run down into the Lune. The "scaur" (carboniferous) limestone just appears in the lower part of the valley; above this comes a thick deposit of shales, with their limestone partings, and the whole is capped by millstone grit. Owing to the position of the country with regard to the Atlantic, the rain-fall is very great, often amounting to 150 or 160 inches in the course of the year; and in winter there are heavy falls of snow. The effect of the erosive action of the "becks," or mountain streams, is to form large gullies in the soft shale; these are often broken by one of the strata of harder limestone, which projects like a cornice, with a deep combe above and a hollow below, into which the stream leaps clear through the air. The snow, after a heavy fall, not uncommonly forms a kind of dam on these ledges, behind which the stream gathers, till, the barrier bursting, the whole descends in a mixed avalanche of snow, water, and rock into the valley. The Professor then read a letter, written by a Quaker farmer of the valley, giving a most graphic account of a number of these avalanches which fell on the 6th of February, 1752, the result of a week's heavy snow, followed by twenty-four hours' rain. One swept by the writer's farmhouse with a roar like thunder, destroying the outbuildings and cattle. After much peril he and his family escaped to a friend's house in a safer spot. All, however, were not so fortunate. In one house seven persons were killed, an old bedridden woman only escaping, who was saved from being crushed in the ruins by a beam which fell so as to protect her. The description given forcibly recalled the often-recorded phenomena of Alpine avalanches.

MANCHESTER.

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.— Ordinary Meeting, October 31.— R. Angus Smith, Ph.D., F.R.S., &c., President, in the chair.

A communication from Sir J. F. W. Herschel, Bart., F.R.S., &c., was read by Mr. Baxendell.

Mr. Edward Hull exhibited some etchings of caves, fissures, and isolated rocks on the coast of Cantyre, intended to illustrate three classes of phenomena belonging to the raised beach and coast, known as "the 30-feet beach," from the fact that its mean elevation is about 30 feet above the present tides.

Mr. T. Heelis called attention to the proceedings of a scientific commission recently issued by his Highness the Viceroy of Egypt, who had succeeded in finding a tertiary coal basin in the valleys between Mount Olympus and the Bay of Oraniska, in the Gulf of Salonica, and also on the mainland of Asia Minor, near the Island of Samos.

A paper "On Coresolvents," by the Honourable Chief Justice Cockle, M.A., &c., President of the Queensland Philosophical Society, was communicated by the Rev. Robert Harley, F.R.S.

Mr. Baxendell drew attention to the auroral phenomena which occurred on the 19th and 26th ult., and showed sketches of the arches, &c., taken by Mr. R. P. Greg, at Prestwich.

Dr. Joule, F.R.S., said he had observed the effect of the aurora on the former date, on his sensitive magnetic needle. The needle was violently agitated, as many as 36 changes of

deflection, varying from 10" to 1' 40," occurring per minute. The cause of the movements seemed to be instantaneous in its action. It was remarked that when the beams preponderated on the west of the magnetic north the needle took an easterly direction.

A paper was read entitled "Questions regarding the Life History of the Foraminifera, Suggested by Examinations of their Dead Shells," by Thomas Alcock, M.D.

MICROSCOPICAL SECTION. — OCTOBER 16. — Mr. A. G. Latham, President of the Section, in the chair.

This being the first meeting of the session, the President delivered an address reviewing the past proceedings of the Section, and referring with satisfaction to the proposal to extend its objects to subjects of natural history generally.

Mr. Sidebotham read "Notes on Atlantic Soundings," and also read the following "Notes

on Acherontia Atropos" :-

"The Death's-head moth, which was in former times an object of such dread that the appearance of a specimen of it was, like a comet, considered the precursor of some dreadful event, appears to be gradually becoming more common. If I remember rightly, it was Stothard the artist who was so fortunate as to capture a specimen for his collection when a genuine British specimen was exceedingly rare. Even in my recollection a guinea or two was not considered too much to pay for a fine example. This season the insect has been unusually abundant, at least a score of larvæ having been found about my own neighbourhood. It has also been found at Bowdon, Middleton, Oldham, Strines, and other places round Manchester; in Middleton about 170 have occurred. Between Lytham and Blackpool it has been remarkably common; among those I obtained at Lytham was a very remarkable specimen, of which I made a rough drawing; it was so unlike the usual form that many who saw it fancied it must be some other species, but the same has been noticed by Stanton as occurring now and then, and Mr. Harrison obtained another somewhat similar at Bowdon. My specimen is still in the pupa state, and I shall carefully note whether or not the moth produced varies from the usual form.

Dr. Alcock exhibited specimens of Eozoon Canadense, from Canada, and also from Ireland,

lent by Mr. H. B. Brady.

Mr. Symonds Clark, of Adelaide, South Australia, exhibited a series of skulls of small marsupial animals, beautifully prepared by him; also the skins of several species.

Mr. Sidebotham recorded the discovery of Apion ononis, in the Isle of Anglesey, a species of Curculio, which he stated to be new to Britain.

MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.

LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 7.30.—" Differential Resolvents:" Rev. Robert Harley, F.R.S.

TUESDAY.

ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—"On the True Assignation of the Bronze Weapons, &c., Supposed to Indicate a Bronze Age in Western and Northern Europe:" Thomas Wright, Esq.

Institution of Civil Engineers, at 8.—Discussion upon Sir Charles Bright's Paper "The Telegraph to India, and Its Extension to Australia and China."

STATISTICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—"On the Question whether there is a Science of Statistics, and on Its Relation to Political Economy and Social Science:" Dr. W. A. Guy.

WEDNESDAY.

Geological Society.—1. "On Impressions of Selenite in the Woolwich Beds and London Clay:"P. Martin Duncan, M.B., Sec. G.S. 2. "On the Relation of the Fluvio-Marine Crag to the Chillesford Clay:" Rev. O. Fisher, M.A., F.G.S.

Society of Arts, at 8.—"On Water Supply, especially in Rural Parishes and Districts:" J. Bailey Denton, Esq.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, at 8.30.—"On a Coptic Papyrus" in the possession of Henry Vaughan, Esq.: the Rev. Dunbar J. Heath. Communicated by Mr. Goodwin.

FRIDAY.

QUERETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB, 32 Sackville Street, at 8.

ART.

M'LEAN'S NEW GALLERY.

DEFORE many weeks we may expect to see several other new picture-galleries opened, and we shall but the better keep pace with the demands on our attention and the claims of our readers by passing rapidly in review such as have not already been noticed.

"The M'Lean Gallery" is the third on our list; and, although inferior in extent to the one

in Suffolk Street, it is, from the fact of its being devoted entirely to water-colour drawings of a high class, not the least interesting of three collections already before the public. The gallery itself is a considerable oblong, of pleasing proportions, admirably lighted, and well adapted in every way for exhibition purposes. Down the centre are ranged sundry pieces of sculpture, of no mean artistic excellence, imparting to the gallery elegance and to the eye repose. By Lawlor, we have two nude female figures, in a sitting attitude, entitled respectively "The Slave," and "The Fugitive." The pose in both instances is characteristic, and the modelling good, while the surface difficulties have been cleverly surmounted, and the flesh textures fairly realized. Signor Fuciznas is a young foreign sculptor of considerable promise, who excels in a walk not yet ventured upon by English artists. Although we have only two single figures here, it is evident that his vein inclines to the idyllic. "The First Bouquet" represents a pretty young girl with flowers. Her kilted dress is nicely managed, and the air of naïveté about her well expressed. "The Butterfly" maiden has also a bunch of flowers, and, like its companion, is remarkable for pretty simplicity.

Of drawings there are about 180, representing nearly the whole range of English water-colour, beginning with Copley Fielding. Over the mantelpiece will be found his "Surrey Downs" (99), and Barrat's composition, both in the early yellow manner of the English water-colour school, but both remarkable for refinement and

nice gradation of distance.

In the modern style we could scarcely point to a more pleasing example than H. Clifford's "Forest" (6). The trees are as carefully studied as those of the younger Warren, and the misty greenery of the forest is as true to fact as to poetry. E. Warren himself, in his "First Notes of the Cuckoo" (39), treats us to quite a pastoral, with the children playing about the stripped trunks of the great oaks which lie felled in the foreground, while an open woodland rolls far away into the distance. The sky, too, is in excellent keeping, and we are the more rejoiced to see it because in his first essays Mr. Warren was scarcely so successful in the management of clouds and sky distances as he was in the beeches and ferny fronds of his foregrounds. For successful cloud treatment, although reached by a different method to that of Mr. Warren, we would point also to Birket Foster's "Evening" (27), also to his "Cloudy Day" (108), and to Vicat Cole's small but very charming picture of "Early Morning" (155). For bold, dashing, and at the same time truthful rendering, E. Hall's "Stormy Day" (44) is perhaps as successful as any. Equally effective in touch, also, are E. Duncan's "Milking Time" (30) and E. Dodgson's "North Wales" (31).

C. Rossiter's "Harvest Field" (32), with a child asleep in a skull basket behind some sheaves of corn, and watched over by her elder

C. Rossiter's "Harvest Field" (32), with a child asleep in a skull basket behind some sheaves of corn, and watched over by her elder sister, is perfectly sunny in effect, and wonderfully nice in detail. This picture must be looked at. David Cox, A. Fripp, Bennett, Naftel, and Oakley, are all worthily represented. T. M. Richardson and James Holland are also in force. The former sends "Gate of St. Giovanni, Rome" (74), in which we have the refinement of Fielding with a breadth and effect all his own; while the latter spreads before us a view of "Venice" (75), which Turner himself might

have done in the heyday of his fame.

Of Carl Werner, L. Haghe, and Carl Haaz, we need only say that they are present in sundry effective and pleasing pictures. C. Haaz's "Babel-Kataneen, Jerusalem" (78), is wonderfully spirited; and L. Haghe's "St. Paul's, Antwerp" (72), embodies a touching sentiment, which members of the Roman Church will understand and appreciate. We should have liked to have seen more of Samuel Read, but he contributes only one work, entitled "Hanover" (53).

Frank Dillon shows us "The Tomb of Dante," and John Lewis, R.A., the sketch of a Turkish pasha, which will attract attention for its masterly drawing. We have a "Scene from Gil Blas" (81), from the facile pencil of John Gilbert; while C. Cattermole civals him in the dash and vigour with which he has treated "Returned from the Wars" (96).

G. Kilburne is a young artist from whom we may expect great things yet. The pretty, fresh young creature, who is stepping into the court-yard of the farm, carrying her creepie in one hand and her milking-pail in the other, is as sweet a rendering of—

Kitty, she was the charming girl To carry the milking-pail,

as any old bachelor could wish.

S. T. Whiteford and J. D. Linton are also young aspirants to fame; and if we may judge by the "Meditation" of the one, a young girl in white, with a remarkably thoughful and pleasing face, and wonderfully soothing in tone, or of the "Antiquary" of the other, pondering over the illuminated tome, we scarcely think they will have long to wait.

have long to wait.

Mr. F. Walker gives us rather a humorous but perfectly effective version of "Taking Possession." Three large Cochin China fowls have just been set down by their owners in the poultry-yard, and they advance upon the old tenants with such an aldermanic look of authority that one has little difficulty in coming to the conclusion that they will very quickly be in possession. M. Tenkate's "Slide" (104), on which figure some Dutch children, has also a sense of humour, and is very cleverly drawn and composed.

F. Taylor's "Huntsman and Hounds" (73), a fine Highlander kilted in Murray tartan, is one of the most pleasing drawings we have ever seen from the pencil of the gifted president. Nor must we omit mentioning "Stepping Stones" (100), by Henry Webb, or "Evening" (108), by H. P. Burton. F. W. Topham sends the single contribution of "The Fern Gatherer," and H. K. Browne, a charming idyl in six parts, which he calls "The Weather Glass." All those who are familiar with this artist's treatment of children will be delighted with this little series.

For "Fruit and Flowers," we would refer visitors to the works of W. Hough, Miss Millie Lucas, S. T. Whiteford, J. Sherwin, Miss W. Duffield, and the inimitable W. Hunt.

Sir Edwin Landseer's white and black "Spaniel" is dashed off sketchily but completely, and will be valued by many; but the gem in this walk which is likely to attract most admirers is by his great rival, Rosa Bonheur. It is a slight little thing in pencil, chalk, and water colours, representing a deer with "twins." The composition is clever, and nature is faithfully followed.

Of E. Lundgren's studies we need say nothing. They are chiefly devoted to Eastern subjects, and are remarkable, as all his works are, for powerful handling, masterly drawing, and a glory of colours which is only to be found equalled in the works of the Spanish Phillip, and they are in oil.

J. F. R.

MUSICAL NOTES.

OF Mr. Henry Leslie's opera "Ida," which was produced on Wednesday at Covent Garden, we must defer a fuller notice till next week, and will must deter a rulier notice till lext week, and will merely say here that the merits of the piece are such as fully to justify the "Company" in bringing it out. The part of the heroine gave Miss Ida Gillies an opportunity of displaying her power in a second character. The result of her singing in this opera and in "Masaniello," may be summed up by saying that her voice is a clear soprano, of good compass, ranging from about the lower to the upper C, and of sweet tone, except in the highest notes (which sound rather hollow and screamy); that she is fluent in the execution of florid music, doing better in that than in the cantabile style; and that she possesses the vibrato in all the perfection of its ugliness. If she could subdue this fault—which is perhaps more than can be expected of a singer who has evidently taken special pains to cultivate the nuisance-she would be a really pleasant singer of music of the Opera Comique school. As it is, her brilliant execution, and lively, graceful bearing as an actress, make her, in spite of all faults, a useful addition to the working corps of English singers. Of Mr. Cummings' first essay in "Ida," as an operatic tenor, there is nothing but good to be said. On Wednesday night he made a decidedly good impression. There was genuine music in his singing. Such a pure "phrasing" and so distinct an utterance are not often to be heard upon any stage. In the present scarcity of vocal talent, the Opera Company deserve the thanks of the public for bringing prominently forward two such singers as Mr. Cummings and Mr. Patey. The last-named gentleman is fast winning public favour; the excellence of his style gives his singing a charm which is lacking in many basses of greater natural powers.

THE "Africaine" is now being played at Madrid, St. Petersburg, and Boulogne; and in each place, according to the Gazette Musicale, the organ of the proprietors of the copyright, with tremendous success.

THE "Orchestral Trial" of the Musical Society of London is to be held at the Hanover Square Rooms on the 22nd, Wednesday next. Mr. Benedict's new Choral Society has at length commenced its practices. It will give, according to the prospectus, at least two concerts annually in St. James's Hall; and it is understood that its energies will be devoted, as far as possible, to the study of high-class music. There is certainly a large field still waiting to be explored by choralists, not only for their own sakes, but for that of the musical public. On this ground all will wish success to these new aspirants.

Signor Arditi has put forward a very interesting bit of music as the répertoire of his coming Popular Concerts. It includes a number of orchestral pieces nearly unknown to the English public. Among them are overtures by Schubert, Schumann, Wagner, Spontini, Boieldieu, Mehul, &c., some of which are announced as not before performed here. Symphonies by Mehul and Gounod are also mentioned.

THE performance of the "Choral Fantasia" of Beethoven, which was the feature of the concert of Saturday last, at the Crystal Palace, was as good as it could have been in all points but one—Mr. Mann's chorus was too weak to give due importance to the vocal part of the finale. The concert-room being now larger than ever—it holds, we believe, some 3,500 people—a larger chorus is wanted. As for Madame Goddard's share in the performance, it was the perfection of pianoforte playing.

MUSICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—It may interest your readers to know that the instrument described in your last issue, composed of pieces of wood arranged in the order of the musical keys, and, when freely suspended in the air, struck with a hammer, is in frequent use amongst the Karens, a tribe of Burmah.

I have had, within the last few months, one of these instruments for inspection, composed of about thirty parallel strips of bamboo threaded on two cords, which are contrived in such a manner as to preserve equidistance between each strip. These are struck with an instrument closely resembling the European drumstick, and the effect produced is exceedingly pleasing, the longer strips forming the bass, and the shorter ones the treble notes.

The coincidence between the modern French invention and the practice of the Karens is singular; and I have been induced to call attention to this singular instrument the more as I see no mention made of it in Mr. Carl Engel's encyclopædic work on the "Music of the Most Ancient Nations."—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. CARTER BLAKE.

THE DRAMA.

SOCIETY.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Partly owing to the expansion of the middle classes, the wider dissemination of capital, the present facilities of locomotion, to the decay of Puritanism and the emancipation of youth, the population of pleasure has enormously increased. And although the mammoth musichalls which have sprung up like mushrooms all over London are regularly filled; although many other new-fangled entertainments have been lately accepted by the public; it is only the low taverns, the Coal-holes, and Cider-cellars, which have been injured by them. The drama is not deserted. When a play of merit is produced it "runs" for a period of time which in the days of our forefathers would have been impossible.

There is a rumour abroad that new theatres are about to be built, and we think that better speculations could scarcely be devised. In spite of their situations, the New Royalty and the Prince of Wales' Theatres have been lately added to the list of houses which are patronized by the West End, and are "doing well."

Last Saturday night, at the latter theatre, Miss Marie Wilton and Mr. Byron placed an English comedy upon the boards. It is entitled "Society," and is written by Mr. T. F. Robertson, already known as the adapter of "Garrick." Before proceeding to criticize the "morale" or "purpose" of this play, we will remark that though its construction is feeble, it proved a decided success. Each scene earned its own applause; the characters were clearly defined, and, in spite of many dramatic faults, we observe that the author has carefully studied the stage; that he fully appreciates the necessity of appealing to the eye as well as to the ear. He also deserves our best praise for having

distributed his wit with an even hand. This is not one of those plays of which actor-managers are so fond: in which all the interest is centred in one man, who stands on the stage like an oak in a garden, sucking up all the juices of the soil, and shutting out all humbler plants from the sun. As in the "Ticket-of-Leave Man," the parts are equally balanced, and, as in the "Ticket-of-Leave Man," the audience is astonished by the talent which actors, before unknown, display. It is for this reason that "Society," which will draw Belgravia into the Tottenham Court Road, has been refused at other theatres. A monologue, with vocal accompaniment, may sometimes succeed, as in "Dundreary;" but such entertainments should not be called comedies, and should be reserved for the Egyptian Hall.

The story of "Society" can be told in few words. Sydney Daryl, a baronet's brother, is compelled to write for his living, and is in love with Miss Hetherington. Mr. Chodd, a rich parvenu, also desires to win her hand. Lady Ptarmigant, with whom the young lady lives, reproaches her for loving Daryl, and urges her to marry Chodd. She refuses for a long time to do so, but owing to a fatal misunderstanding (of which the clumsy instrument is a supposed illegitimate child), she accepts her clownish suitor. In the last scene the misunderstanding is cleared up; Daryl defeats Chodd in a contested election; his brother dies, and he becomes a rich and titled man.

Lady Ptarmigant is intended to personify "Society." She is a vulgar, plain-spoken person, who possesses neither the tact, the elegance, the breeding, nor the finesse of a woman of the world. As everybody knows, there are women who, in spite of high rank, pure birth, and careful training, have lobster-coloured hands and less refinement than their washerwomen. But these are the caprices of nature, and must not be presented as a type.

However, the sentiments expressed by Lady Ptarmigant are those which, in the marriage question, actuate "Society." She reviles Sydney Daryl, a well-born pauper, for filling the girl's head with romantic ideas, and she tells her that conjugal happiness is to be found in the wealth, and not in the affections of her husband. This is Mr. Robertson's theme—a theme which has been worn threadbare by other writers—and on which he bases some fiery declamations against the hollow heartlessness of the world, the venality of woman's love, &c. Now we consider all this to be mere sentimental cynicism, and the cant of romance. We are inclined to think that Lady Ptarmigant and "Society" are right, and that Mr. Sydney Daryl is in the wrong. We do not sympathize with that youth at all. Here is a man who is head over ears in debt, and who borrows five shillings to take him to a ball, where he becomes intoxicated, and makes an abominable scene with the girl who has thrown him off. Now what right has this man to take a girl, accustomed to luxury and pleasure, out of her home, and imprison her in a debtor's lodgings? If he really loved, would he sacrifice himself, or would he sacrifice her? Love does not take up bills; love does not pay for dinners; love does not propitiate sheriffs' officers, nor save prodigals from the Queen's Bench Prison. We consider that it is seduction for a Sydney Daryl to inveigle into marriage a girl ignorant of life, and none the less so because, like seductions in the ordinary sense, it is perpetrated under the pretence of love. What can result from such marriage but misery? Life is not a three-act comedy in which brothers die and fortunes are left one in the last scene. Such plays as these are really immoral, for they may encourage silly girls to marry men who are beneath them in the world, and such unions disappoint the woman and degrade the man. In marriage women should never descend, and Bohemians should be content to remain single, or to seek for partners in their own sphere.

It must not be inferred from these remarks that we are recommending the mariage de convenance with Chodd. But when a young lady is as pretty and charming in real life as Miss Maud Hetherington (Miss M. Wilton) is upon the stage, she can usually find something intermediate between an elegant pauper and a purse-blown fool. We wish merely to enter a protest against "The Unequal Match," whether it may be supported by avarice, by ambition, or by high-flown senti-

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